



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

2010-2016

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President's Day

The President's Day: July 02, 2010

Friday, July 02, 2010

The President installed Lt. Gen. Ricardo David as the new AFP Chief of Staff during the change-of-command ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. In his speech, the President committed to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), increased in number of enlisted personnel and its strategic aims harmonized with the civilian leading. He also vowed to maintain the stability and strength of AFP so that it could serve the people more.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath to incoming Senator Teofisto Guingona III, and Margarita Juico as the new chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and Kim Jacinto-Henares as Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The President's Day: July 05, 2010

Monday, July 05, 2010

At 8 am, the President led the flag-raising ceremony in Malacañan Palace's Kalayaan grounds along with the employees of the Office of the President. In his speech, the President encouraged the OP employees to support him and his administration as it embarks on the task of nation building.

The President also attended the 63rd anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) at the Jesus Villamor Air Base. During his speech, the Chief Executive urged the PAF to follow the concept of professionalism and utilitarianism in its endeavors and the use of its resources to promote the good for the greatest number.

The President's Day: July 06, 2010**Tuesday, July 06, 2010**

The President attended the Liberal Party Fellowship Night at the Taal Vista Lodge, Tagaytay City, Cavite. In his speech, he thanked old and new members of the party for their support during the May 10 elections and urged them to continue fighting to bring back people's trust on the government. The event marks the first meeting of President Aquino with LP leaders after he took office last June 30.

The President's Day: July 07, 2010

Wednesday, July 07, 2010

The President led the reading of the Prayer for the Nation at the end of the Red Mass (Mass of the Holy Spirit) held at the Manila Cathedral. During the prayer, the President sought for the country's leaders and government officials to work for the good of the country and people in "unity at the risk of sacrificing personal ambitions."

The President also had his first news conference with Malacañang reporters in the afternoon in the Briefing room of the New Executive Building. During the press briefing, he responded to inquiries about the creation of the Truth Commission, stating that it will have a wider mandate and jurisdiction and will be headed by former Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. He also said that his Cabinet has uncovered several irregularities left behind by the previous administration. The President likewise answered inquiries on other topics ranging from the dismal condition of NAIA, to the steps he will do in improving the investment environment of the country, as well as the programs he plan to create in order to generate jobs for Filipino workers.

The President's Day: July 08, 2010

Thursday, July 08, 2010

Today, the President met with representatives of the Life Haven Independent Living Center, an organization for persons with disabilities (PWD). Led by Mr. Abner Manlapaz, members of the group went to the President's residence in Times Street and asked for a moment of his time.

In the afternoon, the President administered the oath of eleven government appointees. They were: Jose Angel Honrado as the new Manila International Airport General Manager, Virgie Torres as the new Assistant Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication and chief of Land Transportation Office, Jose Amor Amorado as senior deputy executive secretary, Ericson Alcovendaz as Assistant Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration and officer in charge as Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration, Ronald Geron as Assistant Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs and OIC, Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs, Teofilo Pilando Jr. as the Assistant Executive Secretary for Government Administration and OIC, Deputy Executive Secretary for Government Administration, Michael Frederick Musngi as Undersecretary in the Office of the Executive Secretary, Ma. Lourdes Ong as Presidential Assistant I, with the rank of Undersecretary, Office of the Special Assistant to the President; Susan Reyes, Assistant Executive Secretary, Social Secretary's Office; Rico Puno, Undersecretary for Peace and Order of the Department of Interior and Local Government; and Eric Gosengfiao, Deputy Director General, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The President's Day: July 09, 2010**Friday, July 09, 2010**

Today, the President of the Philippines headed the Philippine National Police (PNP) Command Briefing at Camp Crame, Quezon City. He was joined by PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa and other top police officials in laying the groundwork for further strengthening the police force.

The President's Day: July 12, 2010

Monday, July 12, 2010

The President started his week by presiding over his first Armed Forces of the Philippines Command Conference at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. During the conference, he assured that the soldiers' welfare and benefits are the foremost concerns for the country's military. The Chief Executive discussed the AFP modernization programs, military benefits, and ordered the military to crush enemies of the state while adhering to international human rights regulations. He also expressed his elation over his high trust rating, saying that this has become a driving force for him to do better at his job in order to sustain the confidence of the people.

In the afternoon, the President welcomed the 2010 World 9-ball champion Francisco 'Django' Bustamante and World Boxing Organization (WBO) Super Bantamweight titleholder Ana "The Hurricane" Julaton during a courtesy call at the Premiere Guest House in Malacañang. The President received a cue stick from Bustamante who bested Taipei's Kuo Po Chen, 13-7, in the finals of the 2010 World 9-ball tilt last July 6 in Doha, Qatar, while Julaton presented to President Aquino the Everlast boxing gloves she used in defeating Mexican Maria Elena Villalobos.

The President also administered the oath of Former Naga City Mayor Jesse M. Robredo as Secretary of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at the Bonifacio Hall of Malacañan Palace. Robredo is the first and only Filipino mayor to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 2000.

The President's Day: July 13, 2010

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

At 10 am, the President received credentials of the new ambassadors of Malaysia and Korea. Malaysia Ambassador Dato "Seri" Dr. Ibrahim Saad and South Korea Ambassador Lee Hye Min presented their credentials to President Benigno Simeon S. Aquino III at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. The envoys were accorded with arrival honors at the Palace grounds and later had a meeting with the Chief Executive. Both Ambassadors were thankful for their warm welcome and vowed to work to further strengthen relations between their respective countries and the Philippines.

The President's Day: July 14, 2010

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

The President called a meeting at Camp Aguinaldo with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), formerly NDCC to ensure the administration's preparedness for typhoons & other calamities. The new NDRRMC will be the policy-making body on disaster concerns. It will be composed of the Secretary of National Defense (DND) as Chair; the Secretary of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as Vice Chair for Disaster Preparedness; the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as Vice Chair for Disaster Response; Secretary of Science and Technology (DOST) as Vice Chair for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; and the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as Vice Chair for Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery. He also reprimanded the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) for failing to predict that Typhoon Basyang (Conson) would ravage Metro Manila. After the briefing, the President led the distribution of relief goods to 177 families affected by Typhoon Basyang at the Del Pan Sports Complex in Tondo, Manila.

The President also announced the appointment of former Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) partylist Rep. Joel Villanueva as Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and former Akbayan partylist Rep. Loretta "Etta" Rosales as chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

In the evening, the President hosted a get-to-know-you dinner with members of the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC), Presidential Photographers Association (PPA), Malacañang Cameramen Association (MCA) and Office of the Press Secretary Media Affairs Relations Office (OPS-MARO) at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: July 15, 2010

Thursday, July 15, 2010

On board the presidential plane, the President arrived at Tuguegarao Airport early morning and headed straight to Ilagan, Isabela to pay homage and personally visit the wakes of Pfc. Anthony Bunagan, Sgt. Melchor Castro and Pfc. Camilo Topino, three soldiers who were among seven government troopers killed in an ambush last Friday in Sitio Sugit, Brgy. Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province. He personally handed the Php250,000 Army Death Benefit to the widows and promised to provide a P180, 000-fund housing assistance and other benefits for the grieving families. He also ordered the Department of National Defense (DND) to conduct an intensive review of the military's systems and procedures with a view to preventing unnecessary loss of lives during combat.

The President also designated University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Marvic M.V.F. Leonen as Head of the Peace Panel with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as announced by Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda during a Malacañang press briefing today. Leonen graduated magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines with a degree in A.B. Economics. He is currently the vice chair of the Constitutional Law Department of the Philippine Judicial Academy.

The President's Day: July 16, 2010**Friday, July 16, 2010**

The President led the inauguration of the P14-million Philippine National Police Training Service School for Values and Leadership at East Ilanan Forest, Corridor Highway at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The training facility was built as a training school to provide continuous education for police personnel. It will serve as a refresher program to correct personal lapses of police officers and remind them of their role as law enforcers and public servants. In his speech, the President assured PNP of his full support, prodding its leaders to submit as soon as possible the service and command requirements needed to improve the functions of the agency.

The President's Day: August 1, 2010

Sunday, August 1, 2010

The President led the nation in commemorating the first death anniversary of his late mother, former President Corazon C. Aquino, by joining family and friends in a memorial mass concelebrated by members of the clergy led by Lingayen-Dagupan Bishop Socrates Villegas.

In his speech, the President expressed his gratitude to those who expressed their condolences and who gave him and his family the strength to endure and get past inconsolable sadness.

In a press conference held after the commemoration, the President ordered Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose de Jesus, Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, to look into the cancellation of 11 flights by the Philippine Air Lines (PAL) last Friday after several of its pilots reportedly resigned from their posts.

The President's Day: August 2, 2010

Monday, August 2, 2010

The President attended the 106th Anniversary of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

In his speech, the President directed the agency to step up its tax collection efforts and raise the revenue level to at least 15 percent to support vital programs and projects of his administration.

During the event, the President led the awarding ceremony of the country's top taxpayers and donor partners which include Nestle Philippines, Inc. and Monde MY San Corporation, and lauded their contribution the coffers of the government. The President, assisted by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and BIR Commissioner Kim Henares, also awarded plaques of appreciation to the BIR's private sector partners and donor agencies such as the World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The President also met with the boxing champion Nonito "the Filipino Flash" Donaire Jr. On their meeting, Donaire offered his Aquino-imprinted boxing shorts and World Boxing Association (WBA) Interim belt to the President.

The President's Day: August 5, 2010

Thursday, August 5, 2010

The President presided over his fourth Cabinet Meeting held at the Bahay Pangarap in Malacañang Park this morning. This was the first meeting of the President and the members of his Cabinet after his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 26.

The President's Day: August 9, 2010

Monday, August 9, 2010

The President attended the 43rd foundation anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

It was attended by ambassadors of ASEAN countries as well as the diplomatic corps.

In his speech, the Chief Executive addressed his administration's policies and objectives, and the role the Philippines intends to play in the ASEAN region. This was the first time he specifically addressed ASEAN countries.

The President was officially informed today by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of its approval of a \$434-million compact grant to the Philippine government to reduce poverty in the country.

LAST MONTH, THE PRESIDENT SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ABOUT THE IMMINENT CONCLUSION OF THE PHILIPPINES' MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT COMPACT AGREEMENT. IN HIS LETTER, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE THREE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND THE MUTUALLY AGREED-UPON CONDITIONS PRECEDENT SUBMITTED TO THE MCC FOR COMPACT ASSISTANCE.

Read the President's letter.

The President released to the public Executive Order No. 4, renaming the Office of the Press Secretary as the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and creating the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO).

The President's Day: August 10, 2010

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

The President welcomed the newly-appointed South African Ambassador to the Philippines Agnes Nyamande-Pitso who presented her credentials at Malacañan Palace. The South African Ambassador replaced Ambassador Andries Pieter Vermeulen who made his farewell call on June 4.

Present during the ceremony were South African embassy officials led by Hugo Lambrechts, Charge d' Affaires; Hayden Mulaudzi, First Secretary for Administrative and Consular Affairs; and Zoleka Mankahla, Attache for Administrative and Consular Affairs.

The President, who was joined by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo in welcoming the South African envoy, thanked Pitso who incidentally was celebrating her birthday today.

After a private meeting with the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) officials, the President personally inspected the waterways along P. Casal and Legarda (LRT Station) Streets. The program for cleaning up waterways is part of PRRC's campaign in rehabilitating Pasig River by targeting toxic inputs from its source.

The President's Day: August 12, 2010

Thursday, August 12, 2010

The President administered the oaths of office to 33 appointees from various government agencies and bureaus in Rizal Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The new officials and executives are from the following offices: Office of the Vice President, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic Development Authority, National Security Council, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Protocol Office and Board of Optometry.

The President's Day: August 13, 2010

Friday, August 13, 2010

The President presided over the oath-taking of the new Board of Directors of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) in Rizal Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The new OPM officers are the following:

- Mitch Valdes, Chairman
- Ogie Alcasid, President
- Gary Valenciano, VP for Internal Affairs
- Noel Cabangon, VP for External Affairs
- Christian Bautista, VP for Special Projects
- Jose Marie Chan, Treasurer
- Dingdong Avanzado, Secretary
- Jim Paredes, ex-officio trustee
- Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo, ex-officio trustee

During the ceremony, the President directed the Department of Transportation and Communications and the National Telecommunications Commission to fully implement Executive Order No. 255 requiring all radio stations to play at least four original Filipino music pieces every hour.

In his speech, the President expressed his appreciation to the music industry which has been at the forefront in promoting the country's arts and culture and in uplifting the hopes and dreams of every Filipino.

The President's Day: August 16, 2010

Monday, August 16, 2010

The President administered the oath of office of Supreme Court Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Aranal Sereno in Malacañan Palace. Sereno was his first appointment to the Supreme Court. Besides her family, Sereno was also accompanied by Chief Justice Renato Corona and other Associate Justices during the event.

The President's Day: August 18, 2010

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

The President attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) at the PMS Building near Malacañan Palace.

In his speech, the President emphasized the important role of the PMS in his new administration particularly in his quest to transform Philippine society and alleviate poverty.

The President then welcomed Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the US Pacific Command, during a courtesy call this afternoon at Bonifacio Hall of Malacañan Palace.

Admiral Willard was accompanied by his Executive Assistant, Capt. Mike Smith and US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas.

Also present during the call were Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo David, AFP Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs Gen. Jose Tony Villarete and Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino.

The President also appointed today Emilio S. de Quiroz Jr., an economist, as chairman of the Social Security System and Ma. Regina Bautista-Martin, a small sugar planter, to the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

The President's Day: August 19, 2010

Thursday, August 19, 2010

The President attended the 3rd Philippine International Motor Show of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI), where he delivered a speech. The event showcased the latest fuel-efficient and alternative fuel-fed automobiles that included hybrids, clean-burning, and diesel-powered vehicles from different eco-friendly car manufacturers.

In his speech, the President assured the officers and members of the CAMPI that his administration is vigorously working to curb smuggling as he vowed to redirect this nation towards progress and development.

The President also attended ceremonies in which 12 young Filipinos were named as Bayer Young Environmental Envoys for successfully completing their respective environmental projects during the 10th BYEE Awarding Ceremony in Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

In his speech, the President challenged the Filipino youth to commit themselves in becoming partners of the government in protecting and caring for the environment.

The President's Day: August 20, 2010

Friday, August 20, 2010

The President instructed Presidential Management Staff Secretary Julia Abad to schedule a Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting to forge a common agenda with Congress and discuss the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections

The President conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Datu (Gold Distinction) on Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Nasser Al-Houti during his farewell call at Malacañan Palace.

The outgoing ambassador was recognized for his five years of exceptional and meritorious service in strengthening bilateral, economic and trade relations between the Philippines and the State of Kuwait. The President was assisted by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo during the conferment rites.

The President thanked Ambassador Al-Houti for helping enhance Philippine-Kuwaiti relations, which was capped by the visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheik Nasser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah on August 16, 1988.

Among those present during the farewell call were DFA Undersecretary for Special Concerns Erlinda Basilio, Chief of Presidential Protocol Ambassador Miguel Perez-Rubio and a delegation from the Kuwaiti Embassy.

The President met with Ambassador Vitaliy Y. Borobiev of the Russian Federation as he officially ended his tour of duty in Manila in a farewell call at Malacañan Palace. The two reiterated their countries' support for the air services agreement which aims to encourage more Russian tourists to the country and in various international fora, such as the Russian Federation's bid in the East-Asia Summit.

Joining the President in the call were Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and DFA Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio.

The President graced the All Leaders' Summit dubbed as "Partners for Reform" at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace where he delivered a speech in front of the estimated 200 leaders of various campaign and sectoral organizations from all regions of the country.

Read the President's speech.

The President made the commitment and lauded the civil society's spirit of volunteerism. He gave assurance that his administration will continue its partnership with citizen volunteers in the common desire to end corruption and ensure the transparent implementation of government reform policies and programs.

The President accepted the recommendations on strengthening citizen's participation in government reform presented by Karina David, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, and the strategic agenda for partnership discussed by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman. Aside from Soliman and David, present during the event were Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad. Also present was volunteer groups organizing committee co-chairman, Dr. Mario Taguiwalo.

The President's Day: August 21, 2010

Saturday, August 21, 2010

The President delivered his message to the Filipino people in commemoration of his father, Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr.'s, Death Anniversary.

Read the President's message.

In his message, he expressed his deep appreciation to Filipinos who, even after 27 years, still kept his father's memory alive in their hearts and minds. He hoped that the memory of Ninoy's sacrifice would continue to inspire Filipinos to pursue real and lasting change in the country.

The President's day: August 25, 2010

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

The President designated a high level delegation to the People's Republic of China to officially explain what transpired during Monday's hostage taking incident which resulted in the death of eight Hong Kong nationals.

The delegation is to be composed of Vice-President Jejomar Binay, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The delegation is making the necessary arrangements with the Chinese embassy and will proceed to Beijing to officially send a report to President Hu Jintao. They will then proceed to Hong Kong to have a dialogue with the Chief Executive of the Special Administrative Region, Donald Tsang.

The President's Day: August 26, 2010

Thursday, August 26, 2010

The President led the capsule-laying in Isaac Lopez Integrated School (ILIS) during its groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a 3-storey building with 45 new classrooms. The project, amounting to P 71.0 M, will initiate the demolition project of an old and dilapidated 2-storey multipurpose building.

The President also graced the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Teacher Education and Law Center Building of Rizal Technological University (RTU). The 10-storey building estimated to reach P 680 million will provide RTU with 33 rooms for Teacher Education, 18 rooms for Law Center, and 51 rooms for academic offices.

In his speech, the President said that the warm and rousing welcome accorded him by students and faculty of two schools have lifted his spirits which had been burdened by the tragic hostage taking incident at the Quirino Grandstand last Monday. The President emphasized that due process will be maintained and the results of the investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigation into the case will be the basis for bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The President was joined by Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales II, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr., and other local officials.

The President's Day: August 27, 2010

Friday, August 27, 2010

The President held a meeting with Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Affairs Trade Minister Yu Myung Hwan and his delegation in Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

The President was joined by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, DFA Usec. Erlinda Basilio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the ROK Luis Cruz, DFA Asec. Cristina Ortega and DFA Director Jose Ignacio.

The Korean representatives included ROK Ambassador Lee Hye Min, Dir. Gen. of South Asia and Pacific Bureau Choi Jong-Moon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) Asst. to the Minister Lee Do-Hoon, MOFAT Southeast Asia Division Director Kim Dong Chan and ROK Embassy Counselor Kim Kie-Joo.

The President's Day: August 29, 2010

Sunday, August 29, 2010

The President attended the commemoration of National Heroes Day held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

In his speech, the President called on all Filipinos to emulate the example set forth by our national heroes whose supreme sacrifice for the nation will guide us in our quest to rise above our present situation and lift the Philippines to greatness.

The President's Day: September 3, 2010

Friday, September 3, 2010

At 10 AM, the President led the launching and public dedication of the 12th and newest Convergys contact center in Sta.Cruz, Manila. The state-of-the-art San Lazaro facility is the first BPO center in the Philippines personally inaugurated by the President. As guest of honor and speaker, he commended the BPO Industry for its stellar contributions to the country's growing economy.

The President also graced the graduation ceremony of the Master in National Security Administration (MNSA) 45th Regular Class of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) at 1:30pm in the Rizal Hall of Malacañan Palace. In his speech, the President emphasized the duty of new graduates to defend the State and to defend it from both national and international security threats.

The President also handed out diplomas and presided on the awarding of special citations to outstanding graduates. Professor Christine June P. Cariño received the most coveted Gold Medal for Academic Excellence, while Director Aiza D. Alzate and Mr. Norman R. Biola received Best Thesis and Leadership Award, respectively.

The President's day: September 6, 2010

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

Today, the President received Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Haruhiko Kuroda in a courtesy call at Bonifacio Hall of Malacañan Palace. ADB has recently approved a \$400-million loan supporting the conditional cash transfer program of the government known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Joining them were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, ADB Country Director Neeraj Jain and other ADB officials.

Afterward, the President welcomed Ambassador Mohsin Razi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who presented his credentials. With the President were Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and DFA Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio.

The President's day: September 8, 2010

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

This morning, the President attended the Stakeholders' Set-Up Campaign Forum on the Philippines' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City. In his speech, the President emphasized the significance of MDGs and complying with its development objectives. Upon receiving the fourth Progress Report on the MDGs 2010 from Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, Jr., he also affirmed that the country is doing well and has been able to achieve significantly in the improvement of health and hygiene of the Filipino children.

President's Month in Review: September 9-15, 2010

The President's Day: September 20, 2010

The president spent the day attending to state papers and conferring to with his officials to give instructions before he departs for his first official trip as President. He appointed Robert G. Vergara as President and General Manager of G.S.I.S. replacing Winston Garcia.

4:00 PM – The President held a press conference where he delivered his statement on the on the release of the report of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee of the Department of Justice and Department of the Interior and Local Government on the August, 23, 2010 Rizal Park Hostage-taking Incident.

10:00 PM – The President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where the Vice President and members of the Cabinet saw him off.

Two squads of honor guards from the Philippine Air Force rendered departure honors for the Chief Executive.

Prior to embarking on Philippine Airlines flight PR 104, a commercial flight, President Aquino delivered a Departure Statement.

10:26 PM – The President leaves for the United States.

He and his Official Delegation, together with a Business Delegation and Media Delegation, are expected to arrive in San Francisco early Tuesday morning, Manila time.

RESOURCES

- **REFERENCES**

- Statement of President Aquino on the release of the IIRC Report, September 20, 2010
- First Report of the IIRC on the Rizal Park Hostage-taking Incident
- Philippine Official Delegation for the President's Visit to the United States, September 20-26, 2010
- Media Delegation for the Official Visit of the President to the United States, September 20-26, 2010
- Philippine Business Delegation for the President's Visit to the United States, September 20-26, 2010

The President's Day: September 21, 2010

10:43 AM (7:43 PM, September 20, Pacific Standard Time): Philippine Airlines PR 104 landed in San Francisco International Airport. The President and his Official Delegation were welcomed by Consul-General Marciano Paynor, Jr. and his staff.

The President enjoyed an In-N-Out Burger at the San Francisco Airport holding area.

12 noon (9 PM, September 20, Pacific Standard Time): The President and his delegation boarded a chartered flight to New York City.

5:00 PM (5 AM, Eastern Standard Time): The President landed in Teterboro Airport, New Jersey, 19 km from midtown Manhattan, New York.

Upon arrival, the President was welcomed by Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, Ambassador Libran Cabactulan, Consul General Cecile Rebong, and Brig. Gen. Antonio Supnet.

The President then proceeded to Hotel Sofitel New York, instead of the luxurious Waldorf-Astoria, which has a rate four times higher. There he was welcomed by the Philippine Mission and Consulate General Officers and Staff.

Tomorrow (late afternoon, September 21, Eastern Standard Time), the President is scheduled to meet with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam and be interviewed by the New York Times.

The President's Day: September 22, 2010

12:30 AM Manila Time (12:30 PM, September 21, Eastern Standard Time):

The President had lunch at Serafina Fabulous Grill located between Park and Madison Avenue.

4:30 AM (4:30 PM, September 21, Eastern Standard Time):

The President attended a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam held at the United Nations headquarters. The meeting gave the President the opportunity to personally thank President Triet for extending an invitation to undertake a State Visit scheduled this September, but which was deferred hopefully to October. The Philippines and Vietnam have enjoyed 34 years of dynamic bilateral relations, and the President considers Vietnam to be a valued friend and strategic partner.

5:30 AM (5:30 PM, September 21, Eastern Standard Time):

The President was interviewed by *The New York Times*, the largest local metropolitan newspaper in the United States as well as the third largest newspaper overall.

The Interview was held at the New York Times Building, 620 Eighth Avenue, and was conducted by six of the *Times* staff, including Deputy Foreign Editors Ian Fisher and Joseph Kahn. It covered topics ranging from overseas Filipino workers, the Maguindanao massacre, the Abu Sayyaf, the insurgencies in the south, as well as The United States and regional concerns regarding the Spratly Islands.

7:30 AM (7:30 PM, September 21, Eastern Standard Time):

The President enjoyed a steak dinner at Manhattan landmark, Keens Steak House.

9:30 PM (9:30 AM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time):

The president was interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, an American international daily newspaper published by Dow Jones & Company. With the president were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, and Energy Secretary Rene Almendras.

The interview was held at 1211 Avenue of the Americas in the Rockefeller Center District of New York City, and was conducted by International Editor Rebecca Blumenstein.

Topics ranged from the Administration's continuing fight against corruption ("If you don't get punished, this will be tolerated," the President said), the Marcos wealth, the Maguindanao massacre as well as on the recently released report by the IIRC on the Quirino Grandstand Hostage Crisis and the steps the government is making to improve the military and police forces, which the Presidents says will hopefully restore confidence in the country.

Also discussed were Philippine investment climate, industry, economics and trade with China, the United States, and the European Union.

Read article

11:00 PM (11:00 AM Eastern Standard Time):

The president returned to Hotel Sofitel for a series of meetings, the first being with former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Along with Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo and other members of the delegation, they

discussed current world affairs, the Philippines' history of relations and conflict with the Muslim community, as well as the position of China as a new regional and world power, and its relationship with the ASEAN.

Later in the afternoon (tomorrow morning Manila Time), The President is scheduled to visit the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

The President's Day: September 23, 2010

12:00 AM (12:00 PM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time):

The President participated in a dialogue with officials of the Synergos Institute and key civil society leaders from around the world. The dialogue, held in Hotel Sofitel, and themed “Participatory Governance & People Power to Effect Change: Perspectives from Around the World,” was a chance for top civil society leaders to exchange ideas on active citizenship and participatory governance, as well as the possibility of pursuing a tripartite partnership with government.

2:15 AM (2:15 PM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time)

Officials from AES Corporation called on the President to discuss the development of the Masinloc power plant in Zambales. AES is the largest international investor in the Philippine electricity industry, with investments of over US\$1 billion in the energy sector. They met at the Hotel Sofitel.

3:00 AM (3:00 PM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time)

World Bank President Robert Zoellick paid a courtesy call on President Aquino at the Hotel Sofitel. Their wide-ranging discussion tackled the challenges to development in crucial sectors of the economy and particular regions of the country, particularly Mindanao. The President and Mr. Zoellick discussed various ways the World Bank could work with the Philippine government in pursuit of its development and reform objectives. After the meeting, Mr. Zoellick issued a statement detailing their discussions.

4:30 AM (4:30 PM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time)

The President arrived at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, 6301 Riverdale Avenue, Riverdale, New York. Here the President was conferred the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal, the college's highest honor, which was also conferred upon former President Corazon C. Aquino, one of Mount Saint Vincent's most distinguished alumna. The medal is named after the native New Yorker, saint and founder of the Sisters of Charity, Elizabeth Ann Seton, and is given in recognition of outstanding achievements, generosity of spirit and extraordinary self-sacrifice. On September 21, 1986, President Corazon C. Aquino established the Aquino Scholarship, which ever since has offered two full-tuition four-year scholarships to students of Filipino descent.

Citation Remarks were delivered by Dr. Charles Flynn, President of the College, followed by the Conferment on President Aquino of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal, and the President's sacceptance speech. After the Conferment Ceremony, the President and his party will be led to the College President's Reception Room, for cocktails. Present at the reception will be the members of the Philippine delegation, the Board of Trustees, senior faculty and administrators, and the Aquino Scholars.

7:30 AM (7:30 PM, September 22, Eastern Standard Time):

The President joined his official delegation, and the Philippine business delegation for dinner at Benihana sushi bar, New York City. The event was hosted by the RP-US Business Council, and provided the President with an opportunity to sit down with the Philippine business delegation—composed of chief executives of leading Philippine corporations that have close business ties to the US—and talk about business and trade opportunities between the Philippines and America.

8:20 PM (8:20 AM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President and his Official Delegation left the Hotel Sofitel and proceeded to the Citigroup Center Building, 601 Lexington Avenue corner 53rd Street, for a meeting with selected CEOs.

8:30 PM (8:30 AM September 23, 2010, Eastern Standard Time):

The President was introduced to Philip Hosbach of Sanofi Pasteur; Glenn Jordan of the Coca-Cola Company; Laura Hudson, Manager, International Government Relations of Chevron; Jim Spore of Peregrine; Stanley Roth of The Boeing Company; Roderick Hills of Stern & Morley LLP; Murray Hiebert and Tami Overby of the US Chamber of Commerce; Adam Levinson of the Fortress Investment Group; Nick Rohatyn of the Rohatyn Group; Joseph Alhadeff, Oracle Corporation; Mr. Evan Greenberg of ACE Insurance Group; Philip Vaughn of the Fluor Corporation; Jay Collins of the Public Sector Group; Alex Feldman of the US-ASEAN Business Council; Lewis B. Kaden of Citigroup Inc.; Erika Mann, President and General Manager of Pfizer; David Bessy, managing director and head of Prudential Fixed, Income Emerging Markets Team; Ambassador Paul W. Speltz, Chairman of Global Strategic Associates LLC.

The gathering of CEOs expressed interest in various undertakings and opportunities in the Philippines, ranging from dengue vaccine research, to renewable energy, infrastructure, and training opportunities for Filipinos in information technology.

9:00 PM (9 AM, September 23, Eastern Standard Time):

An economic conference hosted by Citibank, “The Philippines: Creating Opportunities Through Effective Governance” began, with Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima and Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo delivering an economic briefing. At the conclusion of the economic briefing, the President addressed the gathering.

10:05 PM (10:05 AM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President and his Official Delegation returned to their hotel.

10:30 PM (10:30 AM, September 23, Eastern Standard Time):

Various officials from companies that want to expand in the Philippines paid courtesy calls on the Chief Executive in the St. Germaine Room of the hotel. First to call on the President were officials of Coach Luen Thai, followed by executives of Sutherland at 10:46 AM EST, and then executives of IBM at 10:58 AM EST. At 11:10 AM EST, executives of General Electric Health, and Century Properties at 11:20 AM EST, called on the President.

11:23 PM (11:23 AM September 23, 2010, Eastern Standard Time):

The various executives who had paid courtesy calls on the President then attended the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Sutherland, GE Health, Century Properties, Headstrong, and SPI and the Philippine government.

At 12:20 AM EST, the President will then proceed to the Council of Foreign Relations.

The President's Day: September 24, 2010

12:20 AM (12:20 PM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time)

The President proceeded to the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), 58th East 68th Street, New York City, for the forum, "A Conversation with President Benigno S. Aquino III." Prior to the form, he attended a private lunch with Dr. Richard Haass, the Forum's Presider, and other CFR officials at the Douglas Dillon Room.

1:00 AM (1:00 PM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time)

After lunch, the President joined the media, members of the academe, and the business community at the CFR Auditorium as the Council of Foreign Relations began "A Conversation with President Benigno S. Aquino III." The event began with the Chief Executive's remarks, and a one-on-one conversation between the President and the Presider lasting about ten minutes, with another half hour devoted to an open forum with the audience.

[[View or download the conversation from here.](#)]

4:00 AM (4:00 PM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time)

A courtesy call on the President was made by executives of JP Morgan Chase & Co., who personally briefed the President on their expansion plans in the Philippines. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the executives of JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo, with the President as witness.

The courtesy call was held at the St. Germaine Room of the Hotel Sofitel.

5:45 AM (5:45 PM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President visited the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where he witnessed the signing of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines-Millenium Challenge Corporation Compact.

[See the President's July 8, 2010 letter to President Obama regarding this. [Watch the ceremony in full.](#)]

The ceremony, which was held at the Waldorf-Astoria's Hilton Room, was witnessed on the part of the United States government by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. After Secretary Clinton delivered her remarks, the President then delivered his remarks. Both mentioned that the Compact was the result of rigorous study involving both Filipinos and Americans.

The Philippine Official Delegation and Business Delegation were also present to witness the signing.

7:00 AM (7:00 PM September 23, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President arrived at Baruch College, East 23rd St. and Lexington Ave., where he held a dialogue with the Filipino Community in the College's Mason Hall. At the dialogue's conclusion, the president delivered his remarks, thanking the Filipino community and encouraging them to support the efforts at reform being undertaken by the administration.

Afterwards, he returned to the Hotel Sofitel, thus concluding the President's official day (September 23 in Eastern Standard time).

10:00 PM (10:00 AM, September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President began his official day (September 24 in Eastern Standard Time) with a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak of Malaysia. Their bilateral meeting was held in the Office of the UN Economic and Social Council President at the North Lawn Building at the United Nations. The meeting provided the President with an opportunity to discuss points of mutual interest between Malaysia and the Philippines ranging from the welfare of Filipinos in Malaysia, the peace process, especially in Mindanao, and cooperation and trade.

11:00 PM (11:00 AM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):
After the meeting with the Malaysian bilateral meeting, the President attended a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, held at the Office of the President of the Group of 77 and China, 2nd Floor, North Lawn Bldg. of the United Nations. The two leaders discussed regional issues, including ASEAN connectivity, ASEAN centrality and the Asia Pacific regional architecture. Singapore and the Philippines—both strong advocates of greater ASEAN integration—share a robust and dynamic relationship. In 2009, the Philippines and Singapore celebrated 40 years of diplomatic ties.

The three above-mentioned ASEAN leaders share similar origins: Lee is the son a former Prime Minister of Singapore; Najib is the son of a former Malaysian Prime Minister; while President Aquino is the son of a former Philippine President.

The President's Day: September 25, 2010

1:00 AM (1:00 PM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President headed to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to attend the 2nd ASEAN-US Leader's Meeting at the Hilton Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

2:30 AM (2:30 PM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

During the meeting of ASEAN leaders with the President of the United States of America, Presidents Obama and President Triet of Vietnam delivered their opening remarks, and President Aquino delivered a statement on the future direction of ASEAN-US partnership. The meeting was followed by a press conference by the leaders of Vietnam, the United States, and the Philippines, in which the points of cooperation and agreement between the United States and Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam were discussed. [[View photos](#)]

President Aquino served as the coordinator of the summit, the Philippines being the Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-US Dialogue relations for the years 2009-2012.

President Aquino and President Obama then had a private one-on-one talk at the sidelines of the US-ASEAN meeting. [[View photos](#)] President Aquino recognized the United States' commitment to reinvigorating its relationship with the region and its individual nations at a time of ever-increasing complexity in global affairs. Obama expressed his determination to elevate RP-US relations to a higher level, and welcomed the Philippine government's anti-corruption efforts—a large factor in the approval of the MCC grant.

They also talked about US assistance in cleaning up an ammunition dump in Corregidor Island, and the issue of the Spratlys Islands, which the president said can be addressed through peaceful means. [[Ref.](#)]

5:00 AM (5:00 PM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President returned to the United Nations Headquarters, where the President and his Delegation held a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the UNSG Conference Room in the North Lawn Building of the UN. [[View UN photo release](#)] [[View gov.ph photo](#)]

6:15 AM (6:15 PM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

The President delivered his statement at the 65th United Nations General Assembly. In his speech, he called for the developed nations of the world to continue doing their part to ensure equitable growth and development for all peoples. He called for governments to fulfill their citizens' expectations of justice and development. [[View the speech here](#)]

8:00 AM (8:00 PM September 24, 2010 Eastern Standard Time):

From the United Nations, the President and the Official Delegation proceeded to the Teterboro airport to board a chartered plane bound for San Jose Airport, California.

10:30 AM (10:30 PM September 24, 2010 Pacific Standard Time):

The President and the Official Delegation arrived at the San Jose Airport. From there, they headed to the Fairmont Hotel where the President retired for the night, thus ending his official day.

The President's Day: September 26, 2010

1:00 AM (10:00 AM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

The President visited the Renewable Energy Testing Center (RETC) at Landing Parkway, Fremont, California, accepting an offer made by the Office of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for a joint tour of the facility.

RETC is an independent testing and certification center for photovoltaic[1] (PV) technology and renewable energy products. The tour provided an opportunity to discuss possible collaborative efforts on photovoltaic technology and testing in between California, the US, and the Philippines.

RETC is an investment of the Zobel de Ayala and Lopez families and of Fil-Am entrepreneur Dado Banatao (PhilDev USA chair; see below) and is “the only Filipino-owned and operated solar testing center in the world.” [Ref.]

2:00 AM (11:00 AM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

Afterwards, the President toured the nearby High Technology Facility of Integrated Microelectronics, Inc. (IMI) Energy Solutions, also at Landing Parkway, Fremont, California. The facility is owned by the Ayala Corporation, and showcases what a Filipino company can do in the US especially in the field of renewable energy.

2:30 AM (11:30 AM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

The President and the Philippine Delegation lunched at Max's restaurant at the Season's Marketplace—a mall complex that houses Filipino restaurants such as Chowking, Yellow Cab, Tokyo Tokyo, and Goldilocks. The complex also houses a supermarket that caters to Fil-Am shoppers.

Season's Marketplace, located at Landess Ave., Milpitas, California, and is considered a “one-stop neighborhood center in the San Francisco Bay Area serving the Filipino community. It is owned and developed by AY-GB Milpitas, LLC, a joint venture that is managed by Ayalafil Management.” [Ref.]

The President also observed consular outreach activities of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, which served over 100 Filipinos from Milpitas, San Jose, Union Bay, Fremont and the San Mateo County. [Ref.]

4:30 AM (1:30 PM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

The President and the Philippine Delegation headed for the Hewlett-Packard (HP) Executive Briefing Center at Cupertino, California, where HP executives will personally brief the President on their company's prospective expansion in the Philippines and its expectations from the RP government. After touring the facility, HP and the Republic of the Philippines signed a Letter of Intent expounding on HP's plans to expand its presence and investments in the Philippine BPO industry. [View video at RTVM]

According to the President, “The Philippines welcomes this latest expansion from HP, which is considered one of the leading global BPO companies. This development from HP will further boost investor confidence and hopefully attract other global companies to do business in the Philippines.”

The HP Corporation started its Philippine operations in 1994. It was incorporated as Hewlett-Packard Phils. Corp. (HPPC) to represent the product businesses of the mother company. Today, there are about 4,000 employees across all HP operations in the Philippines, making the Philippines a key HP site providing near-shore services around Asia, and far-shore service delivery across the globe. The Best Shore Philippine Center (BSPC), which has offices in Makati, Mandaluyong and Fort Bonifacio, hosts all offshore business of HP in the Philippines.

6:30 AM (3:30 PM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

At the Fairmont Hotel, the President attended a roundtable discussion with Filipino-American scientists and engineers, and trustees of the Philippine Development Foundation USA.

The Philippine Development Foundation USA (PhilDev USA) is the new name of the Ayala Foundation USA (AF-USA). Established in 2000, Ayala Foundation USA (AF-USA) serves as the bridge between US-based Filipino individuals and communities, and Philippine-based social development institutions. AF-USA is a mechanism by which donations and other forms of support can reach intended beneficiaries in the Philippines.

The roundtable was organized by Philippine Development Foundation USA Chairman Diosdado Banatao upon the request of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo to convene the best Filipino-American talents and share with the President their inputs to help transform the Philippines into a developed country with a globally competitive economy.

At the Fairmont, the President was interviewed by Cheryl Hennings of San Francisco's ABC7 news.

9:30 AM (6:30 PM, September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

The President attended the **The Philippine Development Forum Gala** at the Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel, held to honor outstanding achievers in the fields of Science and Engineering Education, and to celebrate Filipino-American talent. The event also formally launched the new name of the Ayala Foundation USA: PhilDev USA. The new name signifies the company's drive to become a catalyst fund-raising organization to guide donors and partners towards strategic giving in order to address the Philippines' most pressing problems and needs.

The Gala was capped by an address by President Aquino. [View video at RTVM]

12:30 PM (9:30 PM , September 25, Pacific Standard Time):

The President joined the Philippine media delegation for after-dinner coffee at the Fairmont Hotel.

[1] Photovoltaic (PV) technology is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity using semiconductors that exhibit photovoltaic effect. *Source: Department of Energy (DOE)*

The President's Day: September 27, 2010

6:00 AM (3:00 PM, September 26, Pacific Standard Time):

The President started off his day with a visit to a mall and a record store. Then, he enjoyed the company of football fans in a pizza place.

The President with his Delegation then attended Sunday Mass at the Basilica Parish Church of Mission Dolores, Sixteenth Street, San Francisco. They were joined by leaders and members of the Filipino communities from Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Northern Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington State and Wyoming.

The Filipino American communities in these areas are among the most active advocates and partners for Philippine development. Almost one-third of the total tourist arrivals from the United States last year and in previous years have come from this region, which has also contributed a significant share in property investments and total remittances sent home by overseas Filipinos.

The President's meeting with the community served as a vehicle to convey his appreciation for their continued interest and enthusiasm in contributing their share in economic development.

After the mass, President Aquino gave his address, informing those present of the good news of investments that has been promised during the trip.

8:00 AM (5:00 PM, September 26, Pacific Standard Time):

The President participated in a "Town Hall meeting"-style interview aired live through ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC). It was streamed live from here. [Read ABS-CBN online report]

During the event, the Filipino-American community of San Francisco, led by Rodel Rodis, and expressed their support for the President and his efforts for good governance and presented the President with a photo book documenting of the Aquino campaign in SF.

10:00 AM (7:00 PM, September 26, Pacific Standard Time):

The President departed for the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport Hotel, at Burlingame, California, where he was interviewed by Sandra Aguinaldo of GMA7 in front of an audience at the Regency A function room.

1:30 PM (10:30 PM, September 26, Pacific Standard Time):

The President departed the San Francisco International Airport for Manila.

He is expected to be home by 3:30 AM on Tuesday.

The President's Day: September 28, 2010

3:30 AM:

The President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, thus concluding his working visit to the United States.

Upon arriving the President delivered his [statement](#) summarizing what was accomplished during the week-long visit.
[\[View the video at RTVM\]](#)

The President, after resting, will spend the rest of the day working on state papers.

The President's Day: September 29, 2010

The President spent the day attending to state papers.

At around 10:30 AM, the President went to the Philippine General Hospital to visit Raissa Laurel, one of the law students injured during the post-Bar Examinations explosion near the De La Salle University. Ms. Laurel is confined in the Intensive Care Unit.

The President shared his experiences with her as one who has sustained grave injuries and discussed with her the process of healing and recovery. He also talked to the mother of Ms. Laurel and pledged assistance to the family. [[View photos](#)]

He also visited Joanna Katrina Ledda, Camille Villasin and Gladys Mique, offering them words of comfort and his assurances of assistance as they undertake the process of recovery.

The visits were closed to media coverage. Afterward, the President released a statement detailing the instructions he had given the National Bureau of Investigation, to prioritize finding the culprits in the Bar Exam blast. He stated that the full force of the law will be applied to the perpetrators of the bombing. On behalf of the nation, he expressed his deepest sympathies to the victims and their families, while stating his firm believe that the young victims will still enjoy a good future.

Read the President's [statement in Filipino](#).

Read the President's [statement in English](#).

The President's Day: September 30, 2010

The President has no official events. He will spend the day attending to state papers.

Later in the day, the President responded to a statement made by the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Bishop Nereo Odchimar over Radio Veritas, who criticized the President's view in favor of responsible parenthood. Bishop Odchimar stated that it is "a possibility" that the Church could excommunicate President Aquino for his stance. [Ref.]

The President stated that his position has not changed, and that it is the government's responsibility to inform parents of their responsibilities with regard to planning their families.

The President's Day: October 1, 2010

The President has no public engagements, and will spend the day attending to meetings.

The President's Day: October 2, 2010

At 10:00 AM:

The President went to Brgy. Baseco, Manila to participate in **Nationwide PhilHealth Registration Day**, where he viewed the day's activities, personally distributed 50 PhilHealth cards to new members, and delivered his remarks to the crowd composed of Department and LGU officials, Barangay residents and other guests. He also visited and inspected the medical facilities available in the barangay and to the students of Pres. Corazon C. Aquino High School.

The President was joined by Philhealth President Dr. Rey Aquino, Social and Welfare Development Secretary Dinky Soliman, Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary Jose Eliseo Rocamora and Manila City Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Read the [President's speech](#). View the official [photos](#).

The event was themed "*PhilHealth Sabado Magseguro Magparehistro*," and was organized through the cooperation of the Departments of Education (DepEd); the Interior and Local Government (DILG); and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); as well as the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and the private sector.

PhilHealth Sabado is the start of a continuing advocacy program of increasing awareness and knowledge of every Filipino on the importance of becoming a PhilHealth member, to ensure access to quality health services to the member and his/her dependents. The program intends to fulfill the universal health insurance coverage within three (3) years, as promised by the President in his first State of the Nation Address.

Nationwide, desks were set up in hospitals, barangay halls, and schools to facilitate the enrolment of at least 800,000 indigents nationwide, as identified by the DSWD-National Household Targeting System (NHTS). In Baseco, it is estimated that 2,000 indigents identified in the NHTS attended the event. Different booths were also set up where people can avail of health services such as blood typing, bloodletting, medical consultation and patient advice.

See the [Department of Health website](#) for more details on the event.

While in Baseco, the President informed reporters during an ambush interview that the Palace is arraigning a dialogue with Catholic bishops regarding the issue of reproductive health. He also clarified his stance that it is the State's obligation to educate its citizens and honor their choices: "the State is not empowered by any law to dictate upon any couple on how they should plan their family." [[Ref.](#)]

Furthermore, the President announced that the government may adopt most of the recommendations of the IIRC report on the August 23 Luneta hostage-taking incident. The President said the action and implementation plans, and the official response to the report are to be released next week.

The President's Day: October 3, 2010

The President has no public activities scheduled for today.

The President's Day: October 4, 2010

1:00 PM:

The President attended a function at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace, where Her Excellency Majeda Rafiqun Nessa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Philippines, presented her credentials to the President.

Ambassador Majeda arrived in Manila on September 15, 2010.

The President's Day: October 5, 2010

10:00 AM:

Upon the invitation of Department of Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro, the President went to the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra), Meralco Avenue, Pasig City to participate in the celebration of World Teachers' Day.

The President joined the more than 7,000-strong crowd composed of teachers, educators & students from NCR, Laguna, Rizal and Cavite, cabinet members, government officials and other guests, as well as other simultaneous celebrations held nationwide, in reciting the Prayer for Teachers, after which he delivered his message to the country's teachers.

View the video at RTVM.

The event bannered the theme "My Teacher, My Hero," and was the culmination of Teachers' Month activities starting last September. It was hosted by Ms. Miriam Quiambao and Mr. Anthony Pangilinan.

12:00 PM:

The President had lunch with Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang, PMS Secretary Julia Abad, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Communications Undersecretary Manuel Quezon III at the Bonifacio Premiere House, Malacañan Palace.

1:30 PM:

The President attended the 10th National Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Congress at the Taal Vista Hotel at Tagaytay City, where the President served as the event's keynote speaker.

Read the President's speech.

The PESO, a non-fee charging multi-employment service facility, is mandated under Republic Act No. 8759 (the "PESO Act of 1999") to be established in all capital towns of provinces, key cities and other strategic areas a Public Employment Service Office which shall be community-based and maintained largely by local government units (LGUs) and a number of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or community-based organizations (CBOs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs). The PESOs shall be linked to the regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for coordination and technical supervision, and to the DOLE central office, to constitute the national employment service network.

The PESO Congress is a joint undertaking of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Federation of PESO Officers (PESOPHIL, Inc.). This annual forum serves as an avenue for PESO managers to learn, exchange ideas, and benchmark good practices on the provision of efficient and effective employment services. This year, the Congress carried the theme "Isang Dekada ng Tagumpay, Tuwid na Landas ang Gabay," celebrating a decade of successful partnership and networking initiatives of the PESO with the DOLE and other stakeholders in the community. It is the first time the President and the DOLE Secretary graced the event at the same time.

The event also launched the National Skills Registry System (SRS) — a five-year project that intends to operationalize the mandate of PESO to maintain a manpower registry of available skills in the Philippine labor market.

7:30 PM:

The President is Scheduled to go to Whitespace, Makati City, where he will attend as Guest of Honor the 20th anniversary show of fashion designer Rhett Eala.

The show will be a platform for promoting Philippine fashion as encompassing and complementary with the times, reflecting its relevance in the expression of national identity. Rhett Eala is one of the pioneers of “Fashion Nationalism,” a pop culture trend that combines patriotism with fashion. The most famous product of this concept is the “My Pilipinas” clothing line which sports the Philippine map on polo shirts.

The President's Day: October 6, 2010

The President is scheduled to spend the day attending to meetings.

At 5:30 PM:

The President is scheduled to attend as Guest of Honor the 98th anniversary celebration of the Manila Hotel.

The the Manila Hotel was the chosen site for many activities and congresses of national and international significance, among them the ASEAN Summit meeting of October 1966 and the Philippine Constitutional Convention in 1970.

The President's Day: October 7, 2010

Today marks the 100th day of the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III.

Read a [briefer](#) on the tradition of marking the 100th day in office.

10:00 AM:

At the Mo. Consuelo Barcelo Theater, La Consolacion College, Manila, the President delivered his report on the first 100 days in office.

Read the [President's message](#).

The occasion was celebrated through a Town Hall Meet which bannered the theme “Isang Daang Araw sa Isang Daang Matuwid: Report kay Boss,” and was broadcast live on television, with live connection points in Cebu, Davao, Baguio, San Francisco, Riyadh and Hong Kong. Various sectoral representatives, from the audience and off-location, including OFWs, teachers, soldiers, call center agents, doctors, Muslims, informal settlers and farmers, were given the opportunity to interact with the President. Public servants from different areas were given the chance to share their stories through broadcasts from their respective bases of operations.

View [photos](#).

While the interview was being conducted, the President was interrupted by audience members, students from UP Manila, who chanted slogans in protest of the higher education budget. The President waited for the protesters to finish and thanked them “for expressing their views.” He reminded them that education covers not only the tertiary level but basic education as well—elementary and secondary, and technical, and that the budget allocation for education was in fact increased. ([Ref.](#))

After the town hall-style interview, the President delivered a [closing statement](#).

The event was hosted by Ms. Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Mr. Mari Oquiena.

2:00 PM:

The President headed to the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace to attend as Guest-of-Honor and Speaker the awarding ceremony of the [Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines \(TOSP\)](#).

As per tradition that dates back to the administration of Diosdado Macapagal, the President conferred the award to the ten chosen outstanding students among this year's 31 finalists (commonly, there are 30 finalists every year), after which the President delivered his speech.

Read the President's prepared [speech](#). View the [video](#) at RTVM.

The TOSP was launched on June 10, 1961 during the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. It is an annual nationwide search for tertiary students who can be role models of the Filipino Youth.

TOSP has produced leaders in the fields of governance, business, the academe, church and civil society. Among them are the late Senator Raul Roco and his wife, Sonia Roco; Senator Rene Saguisag; Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ; and Dr. Patricia Licuanan.

The selection of the students involves a rigorous process, which starts at the school level, then through a regional then national screening, and final judging by a pool of experts and notable personalities.

After the TOSP awarding, the President will spend the rest of his official day attending to meetings.

At 3:40 PM:

The President paid the staff of the Official Gazette website a quick surprise visit.

The President's Day: October 8, 2010

10:00 AM:

The President headed to Bgy. Nappaccu Pequeño, the Province of Isabela to preside over the commissioning ceremony of the Reina Mercedes Post Harvest Facility and Corn Processing Center—one of the activities that highlights the culmination of the 3-day **7th Philippine National Corn Congress**.

The President lead the commissioning rites by ceremoniously switching on the Facility's equipment and thus jumpstarting its operations, after which the closing ceremonies of the National Corn Congress began.

After the various presentations and remarks, the President delivered a keynote speech.

The National Corn Congress is an annual gathering of more than 3,000 small corn farmers and leaders, government and private sector agricultural technicians and other private sector industry stakeholders.

The Reina Mercedes Post Harvest Facility and Corn Processing Center is a private-public sector cooperation project between the Mindanao Grain Processing Co., Inc., (MGPCI), the government and its stakeholders. The Center, with a total cost of more than P500 Million, aims to help local corn farmers by purchasing their produce (corn-on-cobs) and processing them into high quality corn grains that meet the standards of feed millers and food processors. It aims to liberate corn farmers from the burden of post harvest risks, especially from solar-drying grains during the wet season months.

Reina Mercedes is the biggest corn post-harvest facility in Southeast Asia. (Ref.)

After the above ceremonies the president was invited to lunch, after which he will head back to Malacañang to attend to meetings.

The President's Day: October 9, 2010

The President has no public events scheduled for the day.

The President's Day: October 10, 2010

10:00 AM:

The President went to the Araneta Coliseum, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, to attend as guest speaker the launch of the 10th National Cooperative Summit: a three-day event, from October 10 to 12, 2010, organized by the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) in partnership with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). The Summit aims to develop a common cooperative development agenda for the sector and to strengthen and promote solidarity among cooperatives. It also hopes to address the gaps that hamper the development of co-operative business linkages and partnerships.

The President also inducted the 2010 PCC Board of Directors with Former Senator Agapito A. Aquino as its Chairman. PCC represents national and regional cooperatives all working towards the growth of cooperatives to help spur the economy.

The PCC, established in 1996, is a unity center of Philippine cooperatives. It is composed of national and regional cooperatives and some leading primary cooperatives, all bound by a common desire to make the cooperative movement an important player in the economy and society.

The PCC supports the efforts of its members towards an integrated cooperative savings-and-credit movement, a unified cooperative insurance system, a strong agriculture cooperative trading and marketing system, a strong national cooperative bank, and other cooperative structures in defense of the economy of the Filipino masses. PCC sponsors common agenda-building activities among cooperative networks through its committees on policy, technical, and business development cooperation.

Read the President's speech.

7:30 PM:

The President headed to the Quezon Memorial Park where he graced the The 7th Year Anniversary of Gawad Kalinga (GK). The event forwarded GK's campaign titled "Kalinga Sa Bayan (KSB)," which aims to build support and encouragement for public participation in the alleviation of poverty and other issues through strong public-private partnerships.

The President attended the event as Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker.

Read the President's speech.

After the GK event, the President attended the 41st birthday celebration of Senator Francis Escudero. At the party he was reportedly seated beside former President Estrada, and in the same table with Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The President's Day: October 11, 2010

The President had a lunch and dialogue with members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines at his official residence, Bahay Pangarap.

2:00 PM:

The President administered the oaths of office of government and military officials, as well as members of the League of the Philippines (NCR), at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The following are the government officials who took their oaths today:

From the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

- Evelyn F. Tablang, Executive Director, Employers Compensation Commission
- Dr. Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC)
- Alfredo Y. Po, Commissioner, Professional Regulation Commission

From the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

- Atty. Teodoro Pascua, Deputy Director General for Field Operations

From the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

- Mateo G. Montaña, Undersecretary
- Camilo G. Gudmalin, Assistant Secretary

From the Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Ernesto Diokno, Acting Director (Director VI), Bureau of Corrections

From the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)

- Atty. Edgardo B. Abon, Chairman, Tariff Commission

From the Games and Amusement Board

- Juan Ramon R. Guanzon, Chairman

From the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG)

- Atty. J. Andres D. Bautista, Chairman
- Richard Roger T. Amurao, Commissioner
- Gerard C. Mosquera, Commissioner
- Ma. Ngina Teresa V. Chan-Gonzaga, Commissioner

From the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)

- Robert G. Vergara, President and General Manager

From the Department of Energy (DOE)

- Pedro H. Maniego, Jr., Chairman, National Renewable Energy Board

From other departments and offices

- Edilberto G. Sandoval, Presiding Justice of the Sandiganbayan
- Jan Mikael dL. Co, Assistant Executive Secretary, Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office
- Mariano Augustine L. Rodriguez, Director III, Presidential Communications Operations Office
- Atty. Josel N. Mostajo, Director IV, Office of the Press Secretary – Office of the Presidential Spokesperson

The following were the Army Officials who took their Oaths of Office today:

- LtGen. Arturo B Ortiz O-7920 AFP (CG, PA)
- VAdm. Mario A Catacutan O-7450 AFP (TIG, AFP)
- MGen. Nestor R Sadiarin O-7444 AFP (Chief, AFP BAC)
- MGen. Rolito B Abad O-7769 AFP (TIA, AFP)
- RAdm. Jose Luis M Alano O-7880 AFP (CNS, PN)
- RAdm. Cornelio A Dela Cruz O-7728 AFP (DCS for Pers, J1)
- MGen. Carlix P Donila O-7701 AFP (AFIG, PAF)
- MGen. Francisco N Cruz Jr O-7910 AFP (DCS for Intel, J2)
- BGen. Jorge E De Jesus O-7989 AFP (WC, 420TH SW)
- BGen. Romeo V Poquiz O-8202 AFP (ADCS for Log, J4)
- BGen. Edgardo Rene C Samonte O-8307 AFP (AFIA)

List of members of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines (NCR) who took their Oaths of Office today:

Vice Mayors' League Of The Philippines National Capital Region

- Edgar R. Erice (Caloocan City), President
- Rosalio D. Martires (Pasig City), Exec. Vice President
- Jose Jonathan C. Sanchez (Pateros), Vice-President
- Jose Fabian I. Cadiz (Marikina City), P.R.O.
- Francisco Javier M. Zamora (San Juan City), Auditor
- George A. Elias (Taguig City), Secretary General

Board of Directors

- Luis I. Bustamante (Las Piñas City)
- Romulo V. Peña (Makati City)
- Antolin A. Oreta (Malabon City)
- Danilo L. De Guzman (Mandaluyong City)
- Francisco M. Domagoso (Manila City)
- Artemio A. Simundac (Muntinlupa City)
- Patrick Joseph A. Javier (Navotas City)
- Gustavo S. Tambunting (Parañaque City)
- Eric M. Martinez (Valenzuela City)

4:00 PM:

The President held a press conference in which he announced the recommended actions to be taken after reviewing the report of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee (IIRC) on the August 23rd Quirino Grandstand hostage-taking incident.

Read the President's statement.

After delivering his statement, the President authorized that the whole report of the IIRC, as well as the review of the report by the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Council, be made available online.

Read the full IIRC report.

Read the review of the IIRC report by the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Council, and as approved by the President.

The IIRC released a statement welcoming the President's directive to release the full report, to the public, as well as his announced action plan on the Committee's recommendations.

The President's Day: October 12, 2010

9:30AM:

This morning, the President attended the Launching of the Enhanced Business Name Registration System held at the DTI-NCR Area 3 Office, Highway 54 Plaza, EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

There, the President observed the processing of Business Name Certificates and led in the turn-over of a business certificate to a registrant. Attendees of the event included some 50 business name applicants, DTI and local government officials and other invited guests.

The Business Name Registration System (BNRS) is an electronic online system for business name (BN) registration. The Enhanced Business Name Registration System (EBNRS) simplified the application for BN registration and shortened the processing time from 4 hours to 15 minutes, because of the following reforms:

- “Territorial registration” which is based on four (4) geographical territories like barangay, city/municipality, regional and national;
- An option to choose from the four (4) territories is open to applicants;
- A single registration is required to use the business name anywhere within the territory, regardless of the number of branches/ outlets applicant may set up therein;
- Reduction of information and requirements from the applicants, from 16 to 7 fields; and,
- Allowing an end-to-end online solution for the business name registration process and filing of applications over-the-counter at any DTI Field Office or at a DTI accredited business centers.

The project is in compliance with the President's commitment during his SONA to provide a better business environment through streamlined government processing procedures.

A soft launch of the EBNRS was successfully held last October 7.

For more information see [here](#).

This morning, the President also announced to media that he had signed a proclamation (No. 50) granting amnesty to participants of the July 27, 2003 Oakwood Mutiny, the February 2006 Marines Stand-Off and the November 29, 2007 Manila Pen Incident and related incidents. The President said that those covered by the amnesty includes detained Senator Antonio Trillanes. Furthermore, the President said the proclamation needs concurrence of the House and the Senate.

Read and download Proclamation No. 50.

Read a briefer on Presidential Amnesties.

At 6:00 PM:

The President attended as Speaker and Guest of Honor the Grand Opening of the Microtel Mall of Asia in Pasay City—the largest Microtel in the world—where he delivered a speech in front of the estimated 200 people in attendance.

Read the President's speech.

Microtel, an international chain of hotels under the Wyndham Hotel Group, has more than 300 properties worldwide. In the Philippines, it has properties in Baguio, Batangas, Boracay, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Davao, Puerto

Princesa, and Tarlac, all of which are managed by the Microtel Development Corporation, the hospitality arm of the PHINMA Group.

The President's Day: October 13, 2010

11:00 AM:

This morning the President was interviewed by Jessica Soho of GMA7 at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall (the Premier Guest House), Malacañan Palace.

The interview was granted as per the request of GMA News and Public Affairs for the purpose of a special documentary on the President's First 100 Days in Office. The documentary will air during GMA's Sunday Night Box Office (SNBO).

1:30 PM:

The President went to the Presidential Conference Room of Bonifacio Hall to grant an interview to a panel of editors from the *Philippine Star* on the President's First 100 Days in Office as well as of the President's plans for his next 100 days.

The last time the President was interviewed by the staff of the *Philippine Star* was during the height of the 2010 election campaign last February 2010 wherein he enumerated his plans for the country on various aspects and provided his opinions on pressing issues.

2:30 PM:

The President headed back to the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall to receive the courtesy call of the Chairman of the board of Qatar Telecom, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al Thani.

Qatar Telecom (QTel) is the telecommunications service provider of both fixed and mobile telecommunications services in the state of Qatar.

In 2008, the QTel Group partnered with San Miguel Corporation and Wi-Tribe Telecoms Inc., leading to the introduction of wi-tribe 4G broadband to the Philippines.

The President's Day: October 14, 2010

The President spent the morning in meetings with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and other members of his Cabinet, as well as attending to state papers.

The President had lunch with Secretaries de Lima, Carandang, and Lacierda, and Undersecretary Quezon in his office in Bonifacio Hall.

He complimented the preparation of the pork adobo by the Palace kitchen.

12:15 PM:

The President held a press conference at the New Executive Building of Malacañang, wherein he delivered a statement in response to the Supreme Court's issuance of a Status Quo Ante Order granting the motion of former Palace official Bai Omera Dianalan-Lucman to get back the position she lost when the President issued Executive Order No. 2, which voided all midnight appointments of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The President said that the Status Quo Ante Order, while applying to only one petitioner, may have far-reaching consequences, as it potentially casts in doubt "the legitimacy of officials appointed to replace those already removed," and may "enable those who had participated in midnight deals to at the very least, cover their tracks, if not complete acts inimical to the public interest."

The President appealed to the Supreme court to consider the implications of its order and to "exercise judicial prudence at a time when the Filipino people deserve confidence-building measures from all our institutions."

Read the President's whole statement.

Read the ensuing interview.

Read a briefier on the appointing power of the President.

2:00 PM:

The President went to Southville 9 Village, Bgy. Pinugay, Baras, Rizal to lead the turn-over ceremonies of the Southville 9 Housing Project to the National Housing Authority (NHA) as a relocation site for the Rizal residents who were displaced by Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

A Memorandum of Agreement with the NHA was executed last April for some 2,800 housing units, at 40 square meters per lot, to be constructed for the target beneficiaries from Antipolo City, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Tanay, and Taytay. The house and lot package is valued at PhP175,000.00 and will be amortized by the project beneficiaries for a period of 30 years.

As of October 11, there were 2,600 constructed housing units with 957 family-beneficiaries already relocated. Full occupancy of the housing units is expected by the end of this year.

The Turnover began with welcoming remarks by Rizal Governor Casimiro "Jun-Jun" A. Ynares, and a briefing on the project by NHA General Manager Chito M. Cruz. Vice President Jejomar Binay gave the introductions before the President delivered his message to the 1,500 attendees composed of beneficiaries, residents of Rizal, government officials, and other invited guests.

Read the President's speech.

The President's Day: October 15, 2010

11:00 AM:

The President attended the 36th Philippine Business Conference And Expo (PBC&E) at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Themed “*ONE GLOBAL FILIPINO. Creating Synergy for Competitiveness*,” the 36th PBC&E pushes for a cooperative approach between government and the private sector to enhance existing legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to boost investor confidence and pave the way for stable economic policies. Furthermore, it focused on the synergy between and among the local and national governments including the Legislative, Executive and Judicial bodies, the business sector, the academe and international development partners as they collectively work to create better conditions for sustained economic growth.

The 36th PBC&E was organized by the PCCI.

During the event the President presided over the awarding of special recognitions and citations; media scholarship awards; National and Most Promising IP Awards; PCCI Excellence in Ecology and Economy awards; Most Outstanding Chamber awards; and the Most Business Friendly Local Government Unit Awards to various members of the business community.

Afterward, the President witnessed the signing ceremony launching the Business Matrix Program, a computerized facility that will link Agri-Agra enterprises and MSMEs with markets and financial resources. This facility shall help develop the countryside by providing livelihood and job opportunities through a networking system that will bridge and actively connect producers and sellers with buyers and credit provided by the banking system.

Later in the program, the President delivered his speech.

The President of the Philippines has traditionally been the keynote speaker of the Philippine Business Conference.

2:00:

The President returned to Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace to preside over the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) 2010 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees Awarding Ceremony, wherein the President conferred the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Award; the Civil Service Commission Pagasa Awards; and the Outstanding Public Officials Employees or the Dangal ng Bayan Award to exemplars in the government services as chosen by a special committee constituted by the CSC.

8:00 PM:

The President released a statement on preparations for Super typhoon “Megi” (“Juan” upon entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility) which is expected to hit the country over the weekend.

The President's Day: October 16, 2010

The President has no public events scheduled for today.

The President's Day: October 17, 2010

At 7:00 PM:

The President went to the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila to attend the **joint opening ceremonies** of the **(1)** International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies' (IFHNOS) 2010 Global Continuing Medical Education (CME) program and **(2)** the 54th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (PSO – HNS).

The President led the joint opening through a ceremonial striking of a gong, after which he delivered his remarks.

Read the President's speech.

Notes, IFHNOS: The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies was founded in 1987 and is comprised of 16 Head and Neck Organizations from North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. It intends to take a faculty of the most respected names in the fields of head and neck oncology and surgery to various worldwide locations, including the Philippines and give easy access to its clustered member countries. The IFHNOS 2010 Global CME Program – Philippines is a four-day conference that will highlight IFHNOS' global continuing education program aimed at providing state-of-the-art knowledge and exploring the frontiers of head and neck cancer diagnosis and treatment through introductory lectures and interactive discussions with regional specialists.

Oncology is the branch of medicine that deals with tumors, including the study of their development, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Notes, PSO-HNS: The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is a nationally recognized association of certified specialists in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery – engaged in the continuing pursuit of excellence in service, training, research, and public information coupled with professionalism, dignity, compassion and honesty for the Filipino people and to promote camaraderie among its members. Its 54th Annual Convention will highlight the pressing issues within the practice, both academic and clinical, in the form of debates.

Otolaryngology is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat.

After the event, the President was said to have been spotted at the nearby mall, Podium. [Ref.]

Also today, the President reportedly texted the media that Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Teresita Deles, has his confidence despite the recent House Resolution seeking her resignation.

The President's Day: October 18, 2010

9:00AM- Having been briefed by the Secretary of National Defense that all necessary preparations are on track, and since the storm has not reached landfall, the President decided to push through with other important meetings this morning. Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin presided over the meeting of the NDRRMC at Camp Aguinaldo Quezon City.

At 10AM the President presided over the meeting of the Social Protection and Poverty Reduction Cabinet Cluster Meeting in Malacañan Palace. The President has other meetings scheduled after the cabinet cluster meeting. The cluster consisted of Sec. Abad, Sec. Soliman, Sec. Paje, Sec. Ona, Executive Secretary, Representative of Agriculture, Sec. Luistro, Secretary Carandang and Secretary Lacierda. The President focused on the operational plans and asked detailed questions particularly on operations and logistics. The President was concerned about ensuring public funds to be allocated to projects would be efficiently spent. He walked the cluster through the various assumptions proposed by the cabinet.

11:30AM- Aparri Radar Showed Typhoon Juan made landfall in Sierra Madre, Mt, Estagno Point at Divilacan Peak, Isabela with a perfect circular eye.

The President has a private meeting at **2:30PM**.

2:45PM- NDRMMC Operations Center Sent the feedback of Usec. Ramos to the query of the President who was monitoring the typhoon situation. The information is as follows:

– Baguio, 1:30 PM experienced moderate to heavy rains with moderate winds

-Claveria-Calanasan and the Lenneng-CABuyao roads were closed due to mudslides

-Benguet Dluipirip-Itogon and Nueva Vizcaya roads were also closed due to mudslides.

-The equipment and crew are on site. Power in OCD is restored after a few minutes of interruption. Pre-emptive evacuation is on-going in critical areas.

4:00 pm-This afternoon, members of the Ateneo de Manila Blue Eagles Team will be paying a courtesy call on the President at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace.

6:00PM- The President issued Memorandum Circular No. 4 suspending government work in Regions I, II and CAR on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 due to inclement weather brought by typhoon Juan.

The President's Day: October 19, 2010

The President has no public events scheduled. He spent the day in meetings and attending to state papers.

The President's Day: October 20, 2010

The President spent this morning attending meetings with foreign dignitaries.

At 10:00 AM:

The President received a courtesy call from United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, at the Music Room of Malacañang Palace.

The Sheikh's visit to the Philippines is part of a five-nation Asian tour that includes China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

This year marks the 30th year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the UAE.

[The official biography of the Sheikh, as well as of the UAE Cabinet, may be viewed [here](#).]

10:45 AM:

The President received the credentials of His Excellency Juan Carlos Arencibia Corrales, Ambassador-Designate of the Republic of Cuba to the Republic of the Philippines, who arrived in the country last September 23. Ambassador Corrales has served as a Senior Diplomatic Officer in both Asia and Africa.

The President has approved the grant of *agrément* to the nomination of Ambassador Arencibia Corrales as the Resident Ambassador of Cuba to the Philippines on May 11, 2010.

11:30 AM:

The President received the credentials of His Excellency Nikolay R. Kudashev, Ambassador-Designate of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Philippines.

Ambassador Kudashev is no stranger to the Philippines after having been assigned to Manila from 1992-1996. He possesses an excellent track record in the Russian Foreign Ministry and is regarded as one of the Russian Federation's dynamic diplomats.

Through this meeting, the President has formally recognized Mr. Nikolay R. Kudashev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation.

The President is spending the afternoon preparing for his upcoming State visit to Vietnam, his participation in the 17 ASEAN Summit and related meetings. He is also regularly monitoring the situation of the regions ravaged by typhoon Juan.

The President's Day: October 21, 2010

From 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM:

The President proceeded to Region 2 to conduct an inspection of areas devastated by typhoon Juan.

From Tuguegarao city airport, Cagayan, the President took a chopper to Bgy. Baligatan, Ilagan, Isabela.

En route to Ilagan, the President conducted an aerial inspection of the typhoon "Juan"-affected areas in Cagayan and Isabela.

At the Baligatan Barangay Hall the President led in the distribution of food packs to the affected families of the region. He received an overwhelming response from the evacuees, who were all happy to see the President in person.

After the kicking off the distribution of goods the President again boarded a chopper destined for Cauayan City, Isabela.

At Cauayan, the President led in the ceremonial turnover of 130 tents care of the Department of Social Welfare and development to the provincial government. During the ensuing press briefing, the President ordered the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to look into what government intervention may be undertaken for the benefit of those affected by the typhoon.

With the President were Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Energy Secretary Rene Almendras, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, and Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda.

Cagayan and Isabela have a collective population of 2.5 million. A total of 19,681 and 463,375 people were affected by the supertyphoon in Cagayan and Isabela, respectively.

The President's Day: October 22, 2010

The President spent the day attending to meetings and state papers.

At 3:00 PM:

The President granted Channel NewsAsia, an English-language pan-regional news network based in Singapore, an interview on the first 100 days of the Administration.

The President's Day: October 23, 2010

The President has no public events for the day.

The President's Day: October 24, 2010

The President spent the day preparing for his State Visit to Vietnam and his participation in the ASEAN Summit.

The President's Day: October 25, 2010

The President went to the Central Azucarera Elementary School in San Miguel, Tarlac, to cast his vote for the Barangay Elections. This was the same place he cast his vote during the May 10, 2010 elections.

He arrived at **10 AM** at *Poll Precinct No. 0175A*. He was assisted by poll clerks Romeo Hipolito (Chairman), Cristina Santos (member), and Yolanda Santiago (member). It took him only a few minutes to vote.

Nevertheless, the President today said he is not satisfied with how the elections were conducted, given delays in the delivery of election paraphernalia in other parts of the country, leading to extended elections in thousands of barangays.

“Paano ka masa-satisfy doon? Compared to the automated elections, mas simpleng undertaking ito,” the President said. [[Ref.](#)]

View photos of the President casting his vote [here](#).

READ THE PRESIDENT'S DAY: *OCTOBER 26, 2010*

The President's Day: October 26, 2010

Today is the first day of the President's Vietnam trip. It marks the President's first State Visit (the US trip was not a state visit). In Vietnam, the President will also attend the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi and other related Summits.

At **7:00 AM**, the President arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport to depart for Vietnam. Before leaving the President delivered his departure statement, telling those present that he intends to "send the message loud and clear to our friends overseas that the Philippines is once again open for business, as a responsible and dynamic member of the community of nations."

Read the President's whole statement.

The President and his delegation took a commercial flight, PR 591 of Philippine Airlines, bound for Ho Chi Minh City.

View photos of the departure ceremonies.

*Note: **Vietnam is 1 hour behind Philippine time** (e.g., 9:00 AM in Vietnam is 10:00 AM in the Philippines). From hereon, time stamps will be in Vietnam time.*

The President's flight landed at Ho Chi Minh Tan Son Nhat International Airport at around **9:00 AM**. There he was greeted by a delegation of Vietnamese officials. From Ho Chi Minh, the President boarded an F-28 presidential aircraft for Hanoi.

At around **12:00 PM**, the President arrived at Noi Bai International Airport, Hanoi. After the arrival ceremonies, the President headed for the Grand Plaza Hotel, Hanoi.

At the Grand Plaza, the President met with members of the Philippine media for a quick interview, wherein he expressed his hopes for greater cooperation among ASEAN nations, and emphasized that Vietnam is one of the RP's closest neighbors. When asked if he's considering tie ups with Vietnamese industries, he said they will be discussing it.

At **2:30 PM**, the President went to the Presidential Palace of Vietnam for a bilateral meeting with Vietnam President Nguyen Minh Triet and the Vietnamese delegation.

During the meeting the President discussed the RP's investments in Vietnam and said he hoped Vietnam would also consider the Philippines as a possible investment venue. Triet in turn reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen ties between Vietnam and Philippines.

At 4:00 PM, the two leaders witnessed the signing of four Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) between the RP and Vietnam on (1) Academic Cooperation, (2) Defense Cooperation, (3) Oil Spill Preparedness & Response, and (4) Search & Rescue at Sea.

Notes on the four MOAs between the Philippines and Vietnam:

- **The MOA on Academic Cooperation** with the CHED aims to promote cooperation in higher education and professional training, and provide a framework within which detailed proposals for programs on education cooperation are to be jointly considered.
- **The MOA on Defense Cooperation** with the DND aims to create a framework for boosting bilateral cooperation between the defense agencies and armed forces of both countries, specifically covering defense and military cooperation, equipment and technology cooperation, and cooperation in the defense industry.
- **The MOA on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response** with the Philippine Coast Guard aims to undertake cooperation in oil spill preparedness and response, particularly in the areas of human resources

development, mutual assistance, information exchange, research and development, and other areas of cooperation.

- **The MOA on Search and Rescue at Sea** with the Philippine Coast Guard aims to enhance the efficiency of search and rescue operations for ships, aircraft and persons in distress.

At around 4:30 PM the President went to the Grand Hall of the Prime Minister's Office to meet with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

The President Congratulated the Prime Minister on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Prime Minister Tan Dung in turn congratulated the RP for conducting a successful elections last May, and said he was happy that the earlier meeting between the two presidents led to the signing of key documents that would contribute in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

At 7:30 PM, the President attended a state banquet held in his honor, hosted by President Nguyen Minh Triet at the Banquet Hall of the Government Guest House.

The President of Vietnam delivered a speech and offered a toast. President Aquino in turn offered his toast.

During the banquet, traditional songs and dances of Vietnam and the guest countries were performed—including hit songs by Freddie Aguilar and the Apo Hiking Society covered by a Vietnamese band.

There was little formal discussion during the banquet—it served as an opportunity for the President to interact with Vietnamese dignitaries and the ASEAN leaders.

After the banquet, the President retired to the Grand Plaza Hotel, thus ending the first day of his state visit.

The President's Day: October 27, 2010

Today marks the the second day of the President's State Visit to Vietnam.

This morning the President released a message addressed to the people of Indonesia offering his sympathy and condolences for those devastated by the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Kepulauan Mentawai region of the country yesterday. The President heard about the disaster the evening prior and, in his message, offered the assistance of the Philippine Government. The Department of Foreign Affairs has subsequently stated that the RP is preparing a humanitarian team to assist in rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Indonesia. [\[Ref.\]](#)

Read the President's [message](#).

At 8:30 AM, [1] the President departed the Grand Plaza Hotel, Hanoi, for the Monument of National Heroes. There he placed wreaths on the Monument to pay his respect to the heroes of the host country—a ceremony undertaken as per tradition during state visits.

The following is the protocol for the ceremonies: Participants were requested beforehand not to carry any weapons, cameras, cell phones, and handbags. Upon arrival at the Monument area, President Aquino and the Philippine Delegation were received by the Director of the Monument's Management Board, who invited the Delegation to slowly walk toward the Monument in two vertical lines. On behalf of the Delegation, two soldiers carried the ceremonial wreath[2] and placed it at the designated position. President Aquino was invited to move forward to adjust the ribbon on the wreath, after which a military band played music in tribute to Vietnam's martyrs.

At 9:30 AM, the President and his delegation visited Solutions People Innovations (SPi) Vietnam—a Philippine Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) company based in Vietnam that provides outsourcing services such as conversion of published work or audio information into digital format, and online coding services. It was granted a license in 2006, and started its Vietnam operations in 2007.

SPi, owned by PLDT, is a leading full-service BPO provider with offices, facilities and over 14,000 employees in 29 locations across North America, Europe, and Asia. It provides domain expertise in Customer Interaction, Healthcare, Legal and Publishing markets. It also provides services across a wide range of industries including banking and financial services, government, information technology and media, among others.

The President and the Delegation were treated to a presentation by Head of Operations, Ms. Le Thi Dieu Linh on SPi Vietnam, and a tour of the plant intended to provide insight on the 600 jobs provided in Vietnam by this Philippine business process outsourcing company.

At 10:30 AM, the President headed back to the Grand Plaza to meet with members of the Filipino community in Vietnam, to thank them for their support during the elections and to inform them of the government's projects and programs for Overseas Filipino Workers.

The meet was held at the Windsor Room, 2nd Floor of the Grand Plaza. In attendance was Jerril G. Santos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who made the introductions before the President gave his remarks.

The President spent the afternoon conferring with the members of his Cabinet. He is scheduled to meet with members of the media this evening.

READ THE PRESIDENT'S DAY: OCTOBER 28, 2010

Read the President's day: October 26, 2010

[1] *Note: **Vietnam is 1 hour behind Philippine time*** (e.g., 9:00 AM in Vietnam is 10:00 AM in the Philippines). All time stamps herewith are in Vietnam time.

[2] The wreath (1.4m X 1.8m) was prepared by the Vietnamese government and the costs incurred was borne by the Philippine Delegation. The ribbons were prepared by the Delegation and sent to Vietnam's General Department of State Protocol a day in advance.

Today is President Aquino's third day in Vietnam. It marks the first day of his participation in the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi.

At 11:30 AM,[1] the President met with Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of Thailand. The two leaders discussed common problems of Thailand and the Philippines in terms of natural disasters and insurgencies, as well as the countries' economic and social situations. They also discussed the global economic challenges affecting the region, particularly the situation of the local currencies in Thailand and Philippines due to the weakening US dollar.

At 1:45 PM, the President and other Southeast Asian leaders attended the Opening Ceremonies of the 17th ASEAN Summit at the Hanoi National Convention Center.

The following is the list of attendees:

From 2:30 to 4:30 PM, still at the National Convention Center, the President participated in the ASEAN Leaders' Retreat—a two hour session of exchanging of views and frank discussion. With Vietnam as Chair, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung delivered the opening statement. Afterward, the ASEAN leaders delivered their statements.

Read President Aquino's statement.

In addition, the President expressed his support for detained Burmese activist and opposition politician Aung San Suu Kyi, and called for her release from house arrest in time for the elections.

“We have been championing the cause of Madam Aung San Suu Kyi for a very, very long time,” the President said, adding that stability in one member state in the ASEAN is integral to the stability of the ASEAN itself. [\[Ref.\]](#)

Afterward, the President had another bilateral meeting, this time with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaullah of Brunei Darussalam. This was again a first meeting between the two ASEAN leaders. Brunei is a major supporter of Mindanao's peace and development initiatives and has donated millions for projects in aid of the Philippine Muslim communities.

The President's final event for the day was an Informal Dinner with the other ASEAN leaders held at the Thang Long Ballroom of the [Melia Hotel and Convention Center](#).

The President's Day: October 29, 2010

Today is the President's fourth day in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, wherein the President attended different summits related to the 17th ASEAN Summit, which was formally launched yesterday.

Note: Vietnam is 1 hour behind Philippine time (e.g., 9:00 AM in Vietnam is 10:00 AM in the Philippines). All time stamps herewith are in Vietnam time.

At 10:15 AM, the President attended the 13th ASEAN-Japan Summit.

The ASEAN and Japan first established informal dialogue relations in 1973. It was then formalized in March 1977 with the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Forum. This year's meeting between the leaders of the ASEAN and Japan focused on reviewing the progress of cooperation and then setting the direction for the future of the dialogue partnership between the two entities; exploring areas for support for RP development programs and cooperation under Japan's "New Growth in Asia" policy; and exploring areas for the RP's development program that can be funded through the JAIF.

The ASEAN Leaders each delivered a statement of behalf of their countries.

Read the President's [statement](#).

Watch the video of this event courtesy of RTVM [here](#).

At 11:30 AM, the President attended the 13th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, a meeting between the leaders of the ASEAN and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

It focused on reviewing the progress of cooperation and then setting the direction for the future of the dialogue partnership between the two entities; enlisting the support of the Republic of Korea for Philippine national development programs that fall within the framework of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action on Strategic Partnership; enlisting the support of the Republic of Korea for climate change programs; and supporting the Republic of Korea's efforts at finding solutions to the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

In his statement, the President discussed the growing economic exchanges between South East Asia and East Asia.

Read the President's [statement](#).

The ASEAN and the Republic of Korea initiated dialogue relations in November 1989. In July 1991, the Republic of Korea was accorded full Dialogue Partner status during the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (ANM).

Watch the video of this event courtesy of RTVM [here](#).

The President today also entered a bilateral meeting with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on the sidelines of the 17th ASEAN Summit. Watch the video of this event [here](#).

At noon, the President had lunch with the leaders of the ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea—an opportunity for the President to strengthen the RP's ties with the "ASEAN Plus Three" (APT) leaders. Watch the RTVM [video](#).

At 2:00 PM, the President attended the 13th ASEAN-China Summit.

The summit focused on, among other things, sustaining the momentum of the South China Sea discussions in the multilateral fora; enlisting China's support for national development programs that fall within the framework of the

new ASEAN-China Plan of Action on Strategic Partnership; and expressing support to China's proposals to celebrate the anniversary of ASEAN-China relations in 2011 that will help strengthen ASEAN-China relations, and ASEAN-RP relations.

The President's statement during the ASEAN-China Summit covered the following topics:

- The Plan of Action on Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.
- Security in the South China Sea and the formalization of defense and security cooperation with China through the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus.
- The possibility of China, as an emerging global economic player, advocating for the concerns of the developing economies in the ASEAN in international economic and financial governance.
- ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement
- ASEAN Connectivity
- Climate change and the Philippines' leadership role in addressing it through the ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management (ACDM).
- China's interest to collaborate with ASEAN in five areas of cooperation, namely: the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, health policy development, infectious diseases, traditional medicine, and non-communicable diseases.

Read the President's statement.

The ASEAN and the People's Republic of China initiated dialogue relations in 1991 when China's foreign minister at that time attended the opening session of the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (ANM). In July 1996, China was accorded full Dialogue Partner status during the 29th ANM.

2011 will be the 20th anniversary of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China.

Watch the video of this event here.

At 3:00 PM, the President attended the launching ceremony of the ASEAN-China Center Website. The ASEAN-China Center was established in 2009 to promote ASEAN-China cooperation trade, investment, tourism, education and culture, with active involvement of the private sector.

Watch the video of this event courtesy of RTVM here.

At around 3:15 PM the President attended the 13th ASEAN-Plus Three Summit. The ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation began at the sidelines of the 2nd ASEAN Informal Summit held in 1997 with the convening of the ASEAN leaders and their counterparts from other East Asian countries, namely, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This year's meeting between the leaders of the ASEAN and China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea will be focused on reviewing the progress of cooperation and then setting the direction for the future of the dialogue partnership.

President Aquino, in his statement delivered during this summit, discussed the following topics:

- The Establishment of an East Asia Free Trade Area;
- The Participation of the ASEAN Chair in the G20 Summit;
- The Establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund;
- The Philippines' support of the flagship projects of the work program to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response;
- The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity;

Read the President's statement.

Watch the video of the event [here](#).

At 5:30 PM the President attended the 3rd ASEAN-UN Summit.

The long-standing relations between the ASEAN and the UN began from the inception of the ASEAN in 1967. In 1977, the UN was officially designated as an ASEAN Dialogue Partner, the only multilateral aid organization to be accorded this status.

The President's aim during the summit was to enlist the UN's support for the plans and programs of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, which is currently chaired by the Philippines; to secure the UN's views and support on how RP can better achieve its MDG targets; and to promote Philippine interests and its positions toward the development of international cooperation arrangements to address sea piracy that adversely affect the welfare of the Filipino seafarers.

Read the President's [statement](#).

Watch the video of the event [here](#).

At 7:00 PM the President met with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan for a bilateral meeting. The two leaders affirmed their two countries' common desire to continue active and close cooperation in terms of trade, investments, official development assistance (ODA), tourism and political exchange. Watch the RTVM [video](#).

The President's final event for the day was a Gala Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung. Watch the video [here](#).

READ THE PRESIDENT'S DAY: [OCTOBER 30, 2010](#)

The President's Day: October 30, 2010

This is the President's fifth day in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as well as the second day of his participation in the 17th ASEAN Summit and other related summits, held in the National Convention Center of Hanoi.

Note: Vietnam is 1 hour behind Philippine time (e.g., 9:00 AM in Vietnam is 10:00 AM in the Philippines). All time stamps herewith are in Vietnam time.

At 9:00 AM the President attended the 8th ASEAN-India Summit, which discussed the establishment of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) that will be tasked to define the future directions of the dialogue partnership with a view of elevating it to a higher plane., the President delivered

Notes:

- During the ASEAN-India Summit, Leaders took up the new Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity from 2011-2015, which set priority cooperation activities under the three pillars of the ASEAN: political-security, economic, and socio-cultural, aimed at supporting the attainment of ASEAN Community 2015.
- On the RP side, it aims at soliciting India's support for Philippine national development programs that fall within the framework of the new ASEAN-India Plan of Action.

During this summit, President Aquino delivered a statement in which he recognized India as the ASEAN's seventh-largest trading partner, with a total trade of over \$39 billion last year. The President said he looks forward to a solidly implemented ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) which came into force at the start of 2010. This regional economic arrangement creates a market of over 1.8 billion people with a combined GDP of over US\$2.8 trillion.

Read the President's statement.

Watch the Video from RTVM [here](#).

At 10:00 AM, the President met with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key. The two leaders exchanged views on how to enhance the cooperation between the Philippines and New Zealand; and President Aquino expressed his gratitude to the New Zealand Government and to its people for the hospitality accorded to the 40,000 Filipinos living and working in New Zealand and for the various assistance programs provided to the Philippines, such as scholarships, emergency assistance, and peace building activities.

Watch the RTVM video of their meeting [here](#).

After the bilateral meeting with New Zealand, President Aquino attended the 5th East Asia Summit where Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton were invited as special guests.

The Summit was held to foster stronger ties between ASEAN Member-States and the East Asia region, as well as other countries, such Australia, India, Russia and the US.

The President delivered a statement discussing the upcoming Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia and the East Asia Free Trade Agreement; and, as chair of ASEAN's Committee on Disaster Management and following the recent calamities that struck the ASEAN region, the President also invited ASEAN's dialogue partners to consider supporting one or more of the projects under the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Response work program, particularly a satellite-based disaster monitoring system for typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural calamities.

Read the President's statement.

Watch the RTVM video of this event here.

At 12:30 PM, the President, as well as the other participants of the ASEAN-East Asia summit paid a courtesy call on Vietnam President Nguyen Minh Triet. Watch the video of this event.

At 2:00 PM, The President attended the 2nd ASEAN-Russia Summit where the ASEAN leaders, as well as President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, discussed the participation of Russia in the evolving regional architecture in East Asia, as well as Russia's proposal to enhance cooperation with the ASEAN in the areas of energy, disaster management, outer space technology, and cultural exchange.

Participants also witnessed the signing of the ASEAN-Russia Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, which was successfully negotiated between the two sides through the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) currently chaired by the Philippines.

Read the President's statement during this Summit.

Watch the video.

At 3:15 PM, the President attended the first ASEAN-Australia Summit—the first summit between the ASEAN and Australia after more than 35 years. The Summit is expected to take a broad review of the past and current progress of cooperation programs, and discuss future directions for this long-standing partnership.

President Aquino was there to enlist Australia's support for Philippine national development programs that fall within the framework of the new ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership and Plan of Action.

In his statement, President Aquino congratulated Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her election as Australia's first female Prime Minister, "heralding a new milestone in Australia's long democratic history," and invited Australia to further its relationship with the ASEAN.

Read the President's statement.

Watch the video on RTVM here.

After the ASEAN-Australia Summit the President met with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, to promote the Philippines as an investment area and to encourage increased defense cooperation with Australia

Watch the video from RTVM here.

At 4:30 PM, the President attended the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit, which marked the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue partnership. The leaders witnessed the formal the launch of the Joint Declaration on a Comprehensive Partnership and its accompanying Plan of Action (2010-2015), which outlined the main activities that both sides will undertake to support ASEAN Community Building processes in the three pillars: political-security, economic and socio-cultural.

In his message delivered during this Summit, President Aquino said he looks forward to an expanded cooperation with New Zealand in the next five years, leading up to the envisioned ASEAN Community 2015.

Read the President's statement.

View thy RTVM video.

At 5:45 PM, the President attended the Closing Ceremony of the 17th ASEAN Summit, which also served as the official hand over of Vietnam to Indonesia as chairman of next year's ASEAN Summit.

Watch the video on RTVM.

At around 9:00 PM, the President joined the media for after-dinner coffee.

The President's Day: October 31, 2010

On the morning of his last day in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, President Aquino met with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Nông Đức Mạnh, who holds the highest position in the Vietnamese Government.

President Aquino thanked the General Secretary for Vietnam's hospitality to him and his delegation, and for the four Memoranda of Agreement signed earlier, which will strengthen the bilateral partnership between the two countries. The General Secretary likewise thanked the President for his participation in the ASEAN Summit.

View the video courtesy of RTVM [here](#).

At noon, the President departed Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City via the F-28 Presidential Aircraft.

At about 3:30 PM, the President left Ho Chi Minh City for Manila.

At 7:00 PM, the President arrived at Manila, where he delivered his statement to the welcoming party.

Read the President's [arrival statement](#).

View the video of the President's arrival [here](#).

The President's Day: November 1, 2010

The President spent All Saints Day attending to state papers that require his immediate attention, and monitoring the mass movement of people as they visit their departed loved ones—to “ensure everything is in order.” In addition, the President said he had scheduled a dentist's appointment for the day.

The President's Day: November 2, 2010

The First Family celebrated All Souls Day by visiting the graves of the President's parents—former Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., and former President Corazon C. Aquino—before noon at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

There the President, his sisters, and other family members held a mass in honor of the two departed national icons as a crowd, who gathered to greet the President, witnessed the ceremony.

The President's Day: November 3, 2010

The President received two courtesy calls today at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace:

At 11:30 AM, the President met with officials of the Temasek Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization established by Temasek Holdings, Singapore, to contribute to sustainable growth and opportunities for the people in Asia. The Foundation is slated to provide assistance in building the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center's institutional capacity to procure projects that may be listed under the PPP framework, especially on the training of Philippine government officials in PPP project development.

In attendance for the courtesy call were the following:

- Jennie Chua, Deputy Chairman, Temasek Foundation
- Benedict Cheong, CEO and Board Director, Temasek Foundation
- Tony Tan Caktiong, Board Director, Temasek Foundation
- Joseph T. Abuan, Founder and Board Member, Philippine Bayanihan Society Singapore (PBSS)

View a video of the courtesy call by RTVM [here](#).

At 1:00 PM, the President received a courtesy call from Michael Glos, member of the German parliament and former German Federal Minister for Economics and Technology.

Mr. Glos is in the country for a brief visit related to the Hanns Seidel Foundation, a German non-profit organization which has projects in the Philippines in the areas of microfinance capacity building, peace, democracy and human rights among others.

German Ambassador Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo were there to witness the courtesy call.

View a video of the courtesy call [here](#).

The President spent the rest of the day attending to meetings and state papers.

The President's Day: November 4, 2010

At 6:00 PM, the President attended the Dedication Ceremony of the Eugenio Lopez Jr. (ELJ) Communications Center—the 17-floor building within the ABS-CBN Compound in Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City, named after the late ABS-CBN Chairman Emeritus, Eugenio Lopez, Jr.

The ELJ Center was constructed in 2002 and houses ABS-CBN's executive offices, affiliates and divisions.

The President unveiled the dedication marker of the ELJ Communications Center and, afterward, delivered a speech.

The event also served as the launching of the ABS-CBN Corporation's Christmas Theme and video, titled "*Ngayong Pasko, Ang Pinoy ay Magniningning*,"—released right after the President delivered his speech—and a lighting ceremony of the whole ABS-CBN compound as well as of other affiliated stations across the globe.

After the ceremonies and cocktails, the President was invited for a 10-minute sit-down interview with anchor Ted Failon, aired live on *TV Patrol World*.

The President's Day: November 5, 2010

This morning at 10:00 AM, the President attended the The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) awarding ceremony 2010 as the guest of honor.

The awarding was held at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace. It was organized by the TOWNS Foundation, Inc.—founded in 1974 by the Lion's Club International District 301 Governor, Manuel G. Aliño, as a body that will give recognition to Filipino women who excelled in their chosen profession or field and have significantly contributed their talents and skills to the country.

The TOWNS are awarded every three years; the ceremonies are held in Malacañan Palace. There are to date a total of 149 TOWNS award recipients from various fields, including prominent public servants such as DSWD Sec. Corazon Soliman (1992), Supreme Court Associate Justice Maria Lourdes A. Sereno (1995), Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago (1983) and Sen. Loren Legarda (1995).

This year's recipients are

- Dr. Regina H. Alampay, Ph.D. – Education/Organizational Psychology
- Ms. Therese T. Badoy – Alternative Education
- Atty. Arlene J. Bag-ao – Alternative Law
- Ms. Kara Patria C. David – Broadcast Journalism
- Dr. Laura T. David, Ph.D. – Oceanography
- Ms. Jo Enrica C. Enriquez – Women's Advocacy: Anti-trafficking
- Ms. Therese Clarence Fernandez – Social Entrepreneurship
- Dr. Carmela M. Lapitan, M.D. – Medicine: Female Urologic Disorder
- Dr. Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Ph.D. – Health Economics
- Dr. Marissa V. Romero, Ph.D. – Agricultural Research
- Ms. Myla Cristina C. Villanueva – Business: Information Communication Technology

President Aquino presented the awards, after which he delivered his speech.

***Note:** In 2004, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 652, declaring every last week of October as National TOWNS Week, in celebration of the foundation's 30th anniversary.*

At 2:00 PM, the President attended the 12th CEO forum of Semi-Conductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI).

SEPI is the leading organization for foreign and local semi-conductor and electronics companies in the Philippines—its clustering of industry players has enabled the semi-conductor and electronics industry to merge as the country's premiere generator of jobs, exports, investments, and technology transfer.

The 12th SEIPI CEO Forum is an annual gathering of CEOs and executives of SEIPI member industries. It is aimed at leveraging technology and business in the semi-conductor and electronics sector.

After a brief luncheon—highlighted by a performance by songwriter Noel Cabangon—SEPI members gave two presentations: first on the organization's vision, plans and programs for the business community; then on the electronics industry's mid-year performance and its business outlook

The President was introduced by Trade and Industry Secretary Greg Domingo, then delivered his speech.

This was the President's last public event for today. The rest of the day he spent attending to state papers.

The President's Day: November 6, 2010

The President has no public events for today.

He spent the weekend attending to state papers and monitoring the flooding situation in northeastern Luzon caused by a low pressure area in locations already devastated by Typhoon Juan.

The President's Day: November 7, 2010

The President has no public events.

He spent the weekend attending to state papers and monitoring the flooding situation in northeastern Luzon caused by a low pressure area in locations already devastated by Typhoon Juan.

At around noon today, the President released a statement enumerating the actions taken by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in anticipation of the deluge and its effects.

In his statement, the President said he has instructed NDRRMC Executive Director Benito Ramos and DOST Secretary Mario Montejo to coordinate operations in the provinces affected by the Low Pressure Area.

Read the President's [statement](#).

The President's Day: November 8, 2010

This morning the President received two courtesy calls in the Yellow room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The first courtesy call was by Naoyuki Shinohara, Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), who called on the President to express the IMF's support to the new government.

The President discussed with Mr. Shinohara the possibility for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members to "develop a framework on dealing with the volatile global financial markets," which the President plans to propose during the upcoming APEC Summit in Japan. [Ref.]

The President will leave for the APEC summit this Thursday, November 11.

The second courtesy call was by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Commander, Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III.

Major General Ecarma is the UNDOF Head of Mission in the Golan Heights, on the Syrian-Israeli boarder. He called on the President to personally update him on the significant contributions of the Philippine troops in the Golan Heights since the Major General assumed the post in March 2010.

Biographical and background information on the Major General may be viewed and downloaded from [here](#).

At 2:00 PM, the President went to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace to confer the Grand Collar of the Order of the Golden Heart upon the actor-comedian Rodolfo Vera "Dolphy" Quizon, in recognition of his life achievements: Dolphy's significant contribution to Philippine cinema and television, as well as his philanthropic activities and support for charitable and good causes, including the *Dolphy Aid Para sa Pinoy Foundation*, which gives scholarships to deserving children of Overseas Filipino Workers.

The Order of the Golden Heart was established in 1954 by the late President Ramon Magsaysay to recognize "those who have rendered distinguished services or given noteworthy monetary or other material aid, encouragement to the campaign for the amelioration and improvement of the moral, social, and economic conditions of the Filipino masses, and for volunteerism in the service of the Filipino masses."

The Grand Collar (*Maringal na Kuwintas*) is the highest rank in the Order. The first conferment of this rank was on the great humanitarian Hellen Keller on May 20, 1955.

Dolphy afterward thanked the President for the recognition, calling it an early Christmas present on his part. [Ref.]

View the photos of the conferment ceremony [here](#).

Also at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall this afternoon: The President administered the oaths of office of government officials from various offices, as well as the oaths of officers of the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc.—a non-governmental organization "embodied by the wives of the members of the Philippine house of Representatives founded to complement their husbands' legislative initiatives through various socio-civic actions and to rehabilitate the women victims of abuse in the country." [Ref.]

The following is the list of government officials who took their oaths of office:

From the Office of the President, Executive Office

- Teofilo S. Pilando Jr., Deputy Executive Secretary for General Administration, Office of the Executive Secretary

- Michael N. Alimurung, Assistant Executive Secretary
- Jose Emmanuel David M. Eva, Assistant Executive Secretary

From the Department of Agriculture

- Grace J. Cenas, Administrator, National Dairy Authority
- Edgardo D. Zaragoza, Acting Administrator and CEO, National Tobacco Administration
- Jane C. Bacayo, Acting Executive Director, National Meat Inspection Service
- Jovy Bernabe, Acting President, Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
- Manuel R. Jarmin, Acting Executive Director, Livestock Development Council
- Augusto L. Canlas, Deputy Executive Director, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority
- Antonio A. Galvez, Senior Deputy Administrator, National Irrigation Administration

From the Department of Transportation and Communications

- Lucas V. Cauton, Jr., Administrator, Office for Transportation Security
- Pedro T. Galero, Executive Director, Office of Transport Cooperatives

From other departments and offices:

- Jose Eliseo M. Rocamora, Lead Convenor, NAPC
- Alicia Dela Rosa Bala, Designation as Philippine Representative for Children to the ASEAN Committee for the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children (ACWC)
- Raoul C. Creencia, Government Corporate Counsel, Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, DOJ
- Darlene Marie B. Berberabe, President and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF)
- Gemiliano C. Lopez, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Philippine National Oil Company
- Ferdinand Cui, Jr., Undersecretary, PMS
- Peter M. Manzano, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection Monitoring Group, DOF
- Emmanuel H. Borlaza, Vice Chairperson, MTRCB
- Tonisito M.C. Umali, Assistant Secretary, DepEd
- Ramon Vicente T. Kabigting, Assistant Secretary, DTI

The following is the list of officers of the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. who took their oaths today:

- Vice Mayor Josefina Go-Belmonte, President and Chairperson
- Paula Camille L. Bondoc, Executive Director
- Elvira E. Duavit, Secretary
- Violeta T. Mendoza, Assistant Secretary
- Richard I. Gomez, Treasurer
- Evelina G. Escudero, Assistant Treasurer
- Mary Jane C. Ortega, Auditor
- Mayor Esther B. Bernos, Assistant Auditor
- Elizabeth R. Quisumbing, Chairperson, Committee on Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development
- Amelia A. Go, Vice Chairperson, Committee on Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development
- Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Chairperson, Committee on Public Information and Communication
- Melanie E. Alvarez, Vice Chairperson, Committee on Public Information and Communication
- Maria Salome S. Aquino, Chairperson, Committee on Socio-Civic
- Rossana C. Belmonte, Vice Chairperson, Committee on Socio-Civic
- Divina Grace C. Yu, Chairperson, Committee on Structural Restoration & Preservation of the House of Representatives Facilities
- Jihan V. Jaafar, Vice Chairperson, Committee on Structural Restoration and Preservation of the House of Representatives Facilities

- Ruth R. Padilla, Coordinator for Luzon
- Lourdes Suzette del Rosario, Coordinator for Visayas
- Maria Margarita M. Nograles, Coordinator for Mindanao
- Edna M. Marcoleta, Party-List Coordinator
- Regina R. Mandanas, Legal Counsel

The President's Day: November 9, 2010

Today, President Aquino granted a round table interview to the following Japanese media outfits as a preview to his visit to Japan to attend the APEC Summit:

FUJI TV

ASAHI SHIMBUN

JIJI PRESS

YOMIURI SHIMBUN

NIKKEI

NHK

MAINICHI SHIMBUN

KYODO NEWS

NHK

The Daily Manila Shimbun

The President spent the rest of the day attending to paperwork and attending meetings.

READ THE PRESIDENT'S DAY: NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Read the President's day: November 8, 2010

The President's Day: November 10, 2010

President Aquino flew to Cebu this morning to attend two events: The naming and delivery ceremony of the largest ship built in a Philippine shipyard, and the opening of the Radisson Blu Hotel, in Cebu City.

The first event started at 10:00 AM, and was held at the Tsuneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc. (THICI) Shipyard located at the West Cebu Industrial Park – SEZ, Buanoy, Balamban.

There, the President led in the Naming Ceremony of the 180,000 deadweight metric ton type cape size bulk carrier thus christened the Tenshu Maru—first of its kind and the biggest to be constructed in the country.

As the ship was unveiled, President Aquino recited the words: “I name this ship Tenshu Maru. May God bless her and all her crew and everybody sailing on her,” then released the rope that triggered the traditional breaking of a champagne bottle on the ship’s bow and that released confetti.

Later on the President delivered a speech in which he thanked Tsuneishi and its Philippine partner Aboitiz “for the investments you have made; for the jobs you have provided our people; for the trust and the confidence in our nation; and for expressing your solidarity with our agenda of hope.” You may read the President’s speech here.

THICI is by far the biggest investment by Japan’s Tsuneishi Group outside of its home country, with a total investment to the Philippines of P17.5 billion. The company was established and constructed the Balamban shipyard and facilities in 1994.

The shipyard currently employs 11,700 workers. In addition, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, THICI donated a total of P312 million to the community of Balamban and its neighboring towns and cities for the construction of a hospital, public market and school buildings, as well as for the provision of computers, tables and chairs for public school, etc.

At 11:00 PM, the President arrived at Cebu City for the opening of the Radisson Blu Hotel—a recently completed project by the SM Investments Corporation (SMIC), which is the holding company of the SM Group of Companies owned and administered by Henry Sy, Sr. and family.

The hotel was established in partnership with the Carlson group, owner and operator of the internationally renowned Carlson Hotels based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Through its operation, SMIC aims to promote tourism in the country and provide jobs for Cebuanos.

Upon arrival at the hotel, the President led the ribbon cutting to formally open the Radisson Blu. Thereafter he was ushered to the main lobby for the Program.

In his message during the program, the President acknowledged Henry Sy and the Sy family for their “steadfast commitment to providing quality, yet affordable products and service.” He called for unity in the development of the country’s potential, especially with regard to tourism.

Read the President’s speech at the Radisson Blu, Cebu City.

The President flew back to Manila in the afternoon, where he received a courtesy call from former US President Bill Clinton.

Former President Clinton is currently in the country for a speaking engagement hosted by the Manila Hotel, where he delivered a talk—themed “Embracing our Common Humanity,” wherein he described the challenge of globalization, and emphasized our growing interdependence, among other topics—which was attended by high-profile personalities such as former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Rep. Imelda and Senator Bongbong Marcos; Richard Gordon; and Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Clinton's courtesy call to President Aquino was held at the Yellow room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañang Palace at around 3:00PM, before his scheduled talk at the Manila Hotel .

It was to be a private and casual meeting, although the two leaders ended up discussing issues such as the government's anti-poverty programs. Former President Clinton expressed his support for the Aquino government's Conditional Cash Transfer program, and has offered to aid the country's rice production through the William J. Clinton Foundation.

The meeting lasted for about an hour. You may view photos of the courtesy call from [here](#).

The President's Day: November 11, 2010

President Aquino departed for Japan today to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Forum Summit—specifically, the 18th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) and the APEC CEO Summit—to be held in Yokohama from tomorrow, November 12 to November 14, 2010.

He arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal in the afternoon and delivered his departure statement, wherein the President said he will convey in Japan, as he did before, his message that the Philippines is open for business.

“I am confident that we will bring back with us, as we have from our previous trips abroad, more opportunities for our people, stronger commitments from our allies, and greater recognition among the community of nations,” the President said.

Read the President's departure statement. Watch the video of the departure ceremony from RTVM.

President Aquino and his delegation left Manila via Philippine Airlines flight PR 432 at 3:00 PM, and arrived at Tokyo's Narita International Airport at 7:00 PM, Japan time, which is 1 hour ahead of Philippine time.

The President will lodge at the Okura Hotel, Minato-ku, Tokyo, for the night, and will depart for Yokohama on the morrow.

The President's Day: November 12, 2010

Today was President Aquino's second day in Japan, to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Forum Summit held in Yokohama.

He spent the night in the Okura Hotel, in Tokyo, where he landed the night before. His morning was spent meeting top Japanese businessmen, who called on him at the hotel. The President was successful in securing lucrative investment deals for the country.

Before noon, the President left the Okura and headed for the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yokohama, where he was welcomed by the city's top local officials. He had a private lunch.

At 2:00 PM^[1], President Aquino went to the Yokohama Royal Park Hotel, where the APEC CEO Summit was held. At the summit, the President delivered a speech, in which he declared support for the eventual creation of a single Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific or FTAAP. [*You may read the President's speech from [here](#).*]

After the Summit, the President headed to the Pan Pacific Yokohama Hotel. He spent the rest of the day meeting with officials from various Japanese organizations:

At 4:30 PM the President Aquino met with the officials of the Japan-Philippine Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL). At 5:00 PM the President met with the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Sadako Ogata, and at 5:30 , with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

Finally, this evening, the President is scheduled to meet with members of the media.

The President's Day: November 17, 2010

1:00pm oath taking

At 1:30pm the President meeting

6:00pm San Beda College Law Alumni Homecoming (Venue: Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino)

The President's Day: November 22, 2010

President Aquino received two courtesy calls today at Bonifacio Hall of Malacañang Palace.

The first visit was by Minoru Makihara of Mitsubishi Corp., accompanied by Ayala Corp. Chairman and CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II.

Mr. Makihara is a former Chairman and currently Senior Corporate Advisor. He is in the middle of a three-day visit to the country.

The courtesy call was held at Bonifacio Hall's Yellow Room, and was as per Mitsubishi and Ayala Corp.'s request, in order to reaffirm their continued engagement in the country's development agenda, and express Mitsubishi's confidence and optimism in the current Administration's drive to work with the private sector.

Afterward, President Aquino received a Courtesy Call from the World Federation of Consuls, or *Federation Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires* (FICAC), which held its World Consular Fair in Manila from November 18 to 21, 2010.

In the afternoon, the President attended to meetings and state papers, including the signing of Proclamation No. 73, declaring the next day, November 23, 2010 as a National Day of Remembrance for the victims in the Maguindanao Massacre.

During the evening, the National League for Democracy (NLD) of Burma phoned members of the Philippine Liberal Party (LP)—of which President Aquino is a member.

Over the course of the conversation between the NLD representative, Thein Oo, and the LP's Neric Acosta, who was then visiting with President Aquino at Bonifacio Hall, NLD's Aung San Suu Kyi, who was recently released from an accumulated 15 years of house arrest, joined the conversation and had the opportunity to talk to President Aquino for about 15 minutes.

She thanked President Aquino for his steadfast support and encouragement during her incarceration.

The President's Day: December 2, 2010

This morning, President Aquino attended the *Renewable Energy Conference and Expo Manila 2010* at the Dusit Thani Manila, Makati.

The Conference aims to examine the gains, issues, impacts, challenges encountered by various stakeholders with the implementation Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act. The conference also showcases opportunities for investments and partnerships among local and global renewable energy players.

During the conference, the President delivered his keynote speech, wherein he said that while the country has definite energy woes, there are vast renewable sources of energy in the country that need only be tapped. "In fact," the President said, "we trail only the United States as the largest supplier of geothermal energy in the world." [Click here](#) to read the President's speech.

After the program, President Aquino and DOE Secretary Rene Almendras held a brief meeting with the Renewable Energy Coalition and Habitat For Humanity Officials at the holding room of the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Thani Manila.

At 2:00 PM, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Nikkei, Inc. Chairman Ryoki Sugita.

Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. or Nikkei, Inc. is reported to be the world's largest business daily with 4 newspapers, magazines, books, digital media and broadcasting; 54 domestic news bureaus in Japan; 34 overseas news bureaus; and 3,411 employees.

Mr. Ryoki Sugita has requested President Aquino to attend and deliver a keynote address at next year's *International Conference on the Future of Asia*, one of the high-level international conferences in Asia.

The President and Mr. Sugita also discussed the Philippines' economic prospects, as well as the progress of the President's economic programs, policies, and priorities. Both also exchanged views on the developments in the global economy, particularly on RP-Japan economic cooperation.

President Aquino was joined by Secretary Cesar Purisima of the Department of Finance and Secretary Gregory Domingo of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Later this afternoon, President Aquino administered the oaths of office of the following government officials:

From the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

- Zenaida Brigida Hamada-Pawid, Commissioner (representing Island Groups and the Rest of Visayas)
- Dionesia O. Banua, Commissioner (representing Island Groups and the rest of Visayas)
- Sitti Djalila Turabin-Hataman, Executive Director, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos

From the Department of Foreign Affairs

- Mercedes A. Tuason, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Holy See
- Manuel M. Lopez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan
- Wilfredo V. Villacorta, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Indonesia

From other Government offices

- Imelda Nicolas, Chairman, Commission on Filipino Overseas

- Edgar Galvante, Acting Executive Director, Dangerous Drugs Board
- Felix William Fuentabella, Commissioner, HLURB
- Nariman A. Ambolodto, Acting Assistant Secretary, DILG
- Herminio M. Alcasid, Member and Chairman, Board of Directors, PNOC-DMC

The oathtaking was held at the lobby of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace, where the President holds office.

The President's Day: December 3, 2010

President Aquino spent his morning within the Palace attending to state papers. In the afternoon, he left for Tarlac.

At 3:00 PM, the President arrived at the Tarlac Electric Cooperative (TARELCO) I Christ Hall in Brgy. Amancalan, Gerona, Tarlac to witness and participate in the Recognition Ceremony for the Task Force Kapatid (TFK) – Typhoon Juan.

Task Force Kapatid (TFK) is a program initiated by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) in 2002 that pools together volunteers from different Electric Cooperatives in order to quickly respond to problems during times of crises in the energy industry.

During the aftermath of Typhoon Juan, Task Force Kapatid fielded 81 volunteers from 13 Electric Cooperatives who worked to rehabilitate power lines and restore electricity in the affected provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Kalinga, and Apayao. The Electric Cooperatives also handled the salaries and expenses of the volunteers during the said deployment.

During the ceremony the President conferred plaques of appreciation to the Presidents and General Managers of the 13 Electric Cooperatives from Northern, Central, and Southern Luzon, namely, TARELCO I, TARELCO II, FLECO, PELCO I, PELCO II, PENELCO, NEECO I, NEECO II-Area 1, NEECO II-Area 2, ZAMECO II, BENECO, QUIRELCO, and NUVELCO.

The President was accompanied by DOE Secretary Jose Rene A. Almendras and NEA Administrator Editha S. Bueno during the event.

The President's Day: December 4, 2010

The President has no public event scheduled for today.

The President's Day: December 5, 2010

The President has no public events for today. He spent the day attending to state papers requiring his immediate attention.

The President's Day: December 6, 2010

President's Day – 6 December 2010

At 10:00 a.m., President Aquino attended and gave a speech at the awarding ceremonies of the 2010 Model OFW Family Awards (MOFYA) at the Grand Plaza Ballroom of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pasay City.

The Model OFW Family of the Year Awards (MOFYA) is an annual event of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) which aims to give recognition to our country's OFWs and their families who have demonstrated steady and enduring family ties, financial stability, and outstanding community service.

Together with DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon, President Aquino presented the National Awards and the Special Awards for outstanding community service and entrepreneurship to winners from each of the land-based and sea-based categories.

This afternoon, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Ms. Sri Mulyati Indrawati, Managing Director of the World Bank Group (WBG) at the Yellow Room of the Premier Guesthouse, Malacañan Palace Complex, San Miguel, Manila.

Ms. Indrawati is an Indonesian economist and the first Indonesian woman to work as Managing Director of the World Bank. She served as Indonesia's Finance Minister prior to her entry in the World Bank. She successfully tackled corruption and initiated reforms in Indonesia's tax and customs office, and enjoys a reputation for integrity.

President Aquino was accompanied by DOF Secretary Cesar Purisima while Ms. Indrawati was accompanied by WBG Country Director Bert Homan.

The President's Day: December 7, 2010

This morning, at around 10:30 AM, President Aquino attended the inauguration of the Olanen Core Shelter Project at Olanen, Dacap Sur, Bani, Pangasinan.

A project funded under the DSWD's CSAP Program*, the Olanen Core Shelter Project is a joint undertaking of the DSWD, the Municipal Government of Bani, Pangasinan, and the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP). The DSWD funded the construction of the housing units while the local government of Bani, Pangasinan donated the lot area. The UNWFP provided 5,300 sacks of rice assistance for labor under the Work for Food Project.

The project is expected to benefit some 130 families affected by Typhoons "Emong" and "Pepeng" in 2009. A total of 100 units were constructed since the project started in February 2010. Thirty more units are still undergoing construction and are expected to be completed by December 31, 2010.

At the project area, President Aquino led the ribbon-cutting ceremonies and the unveiling of a project marker at the site. The President was assisted by Bani Mayor Marcelo Navarro, Jr. and DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman.

The President also delivered a speech in front of a thousand people composed of DSWD officials, local government officials, UNWFP and USAID representatives, barangay officials, and family-beneficiaries of the project.

At 2:00 PM this afternoon, President Aquino witnessed the blessing of the South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR) Airbus A319 and S-RAY Aircraft at the SEAIR Hangar in the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), Clark Free Port Zone, Pampanga.

The blessing was led by Fr. Elmer Simbulan, Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker, Clark Chapel. President Aquino was accompanied by SEAIR Executives, Mr. Iren Dolmer, Mr. Nikos Gitsis, Mr. Avelino Zapanta, and Clark International Airport Corporation President and CEO, Mr. Victor Luciano.

Later, also in Pampanga, President Aquino attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony of The Medical City Clark at the Global Gateway Logistics City (GGLC), Clark Freeport Zone.

The Medical City Clark (TMCC) is a 200-bed hospital and healthcare facility that aims to provide world class medical services to the people in the Central Luzon and nearby areas. It is located inside the Global Gateway Logistics City or GGLC, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, a state-of-the-art 177-hectare Aviation-Oriented Logistics and Business Park and the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) real estate development project in the Philippines. It consists of 4.5 million square meters of floor space and is estimated to employ around 150,000 employees.

President Aquino led the Groundbreaking and Capsule-laying Ceremonies and was joined by Mr. Dennis Wright of Peregrine Development International, Sheikh Ahmad Daoud Salman Al Sabbah, a representative of the Kuwait Ruling Family, Mr. Saeed Dashti of the KGL Group, Mr. Victor Luciano of the Clark International Airport Corporation, Mr. Chris Kang of CISCO, Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez of Creative Home Concepts, Inc., Dr. Alfredo Bengzon of the Medical City, and DBM Secretary Florencio Abad.

After the ceremonies, the President gave a speech in front of more than 500 people composed of national and local government officials, diplomats, and representatives of two Kuwait Sovereign Wealth Funds (Public Investment Fund for Social Security (PIFSS) and Kuwait Port Authority (KPA)).

The President's day: December 8, 2010

President Aquino spent this morning attending to state papers and preparing for this afternoon's activities.

At 12:00 PM, he attended the Children's Hour Annual Benefit Lunch at the A. Venue Hall, Antel Lifestyle City, Makati.

The Annual Benefit Lunch is the biggest fundraising event held every December by Children's Hour Philippines, Inc. (CHPI), wherein friends and donors from the business community are invited to celebrate a triumphant year of helping the Filipino children.

In his speech, President Aquino commended CHPI for their dedication and commitment in raising funds to help underprivileged Filipino children. The President assured the Children's Hour that they will continue to enjoy the support of his family and his administration.

The President and his family have always been ardent supporters of the Children's Hour Philippines. His mother, Former President Corazon Aquino served as CHPI's Honorary Chair in 2002. The President's sister, Ms. Ma. Elena "Balsy" Aquino-Cruz currently sits as CHPI's Honorary Chair.

The CHPI is a non-profit and grant-giving organization that raises funds mainly by asking individuals and companies to donate at least one hour of their salaries and earnings. The funds are then donated to selected projects that help children in the areas of education, food, shelter, protection and for their total development.

He spent the rest of the afternoon attending meetings.

At 5:57 PM, the Office of the President received a copy of the Supreme Court decision declaring the Truth Commission created by Executive Order No. 1 unconstitutional. He spent the next half hour preparing a statement on the matter.

At around 6:30 PM, the President held an impromptu press conference at the New Executive Building Briefing Room at Malacañang, wherein he delivered the statement.

After the press conference, President Aquino attended and delivered a speech at the 14th Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Centers of the Year Awards Night at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The President also presented the 6th PRA President's award to Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., the Founder and Chairman of the Rustan Group of Companies.

In his speech, the President praised the members of the Philippine Retailers Association for their willingness to share their wealth, knowledge, and experience with millions of Filipinos aspiring to enter the retail trade. He also commended the group for their contributions to the growth of the national economy. The President concluded by assuring the members that

The Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Centers of the Year Awards is a yearly event organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry that recognizes outstanding Filipino retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices with the aim of encouraging industry players to adopt world-class standards and practices and become competitive in an increasingly globalizing world.

Before ending his official day, President Aquino headed back to Malacañang's New Executive Building to join the Malacañang Press Corps in celebrating their Christmas party.

The President's Day: December 9, 2010

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Aquino attended and gave a keynote speech at the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awarding Ceremonies at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awards is an annual search undertaken by the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Office of Senator Francis Pangilinan, and the TAYO Awards Foundation, which aims to recognize, reward, and encourage youth organizations whose programs and projects have made a difference in the lives of the people in their communities.

President Aquino personally presented the awards to this year's Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations and the other awardees in the special categories. He was accompanied by Senator Francis Pangilinan, PCOO Secretary Herminio Coloma, Jr., and various officials from the NYC, the TAYO Foundation, and other government agencies.

In his speech, President Aquino recognized the tremendous potential of the youth in nation building. He cited the youth's vigor, intellect, and the ability to quickly absorb new technologies as the keys to our country's progress. He urged the youth to continue to contribute and help the government in its efforts to bring an even brighter future for our country.

Later this afternoon, President Aquino attended and delivered a speech at the Metrobank Foundation's 2010 Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS) Awards Rites at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

Now on its 8th year, the Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (C.O.P.S.) is a joint undertaking of the Rotary Club of New Manila East and the Metrobank Foundation, and is implemented in close coordination with the Philippine National Police. It recognizes exemplary members of the PNP, who have actively solicited, mobilized, and organized their communities in solving and preventing crime, and maintaining peace and order.

President Aquino personally presented the awards to the 10 COPS awardees. He was assisted by DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, Police Director-General Raul Bacalzo, Past President of Rotary Club of Manila East Mr. Eduardo Zuluaga, PSBank President Mr. Pascual Garcia III, and Metrobank Foundation President Mr. Aniceto Sobrepeña.

In his speech at the program, President Aquino recognized the difficulties that our country's policemen are experiencing. He enumerated the steps that the government is taking to improve the capabilities of our police force as well as the programs aimed at the well being of our police and their families.

The President's Day: December 10, 2010

The 10th of December is International Human Rights Day, in celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of signing of the United Nations' *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* of which the Philippines is signatory.

Also, pursuant to RA 9201, the country also marks December 4-10 each year as Human Rights Consciousness Week.

This morning, at 10:00 AM, as part of this year's observance of the International Human Rights Day, President Aquino hosted a program in Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Speaking before members of the Cabinet, UN Resident Coordinator Jacqueline Badcock, members of the National Government, international and local media, and the Diplomatic Corps, President Aquino reaffirmed the country's commitment to major international human rights treaties and instruments, especially to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The President enumerated the steps that the government has taken in addressing concerns regarding human rights, namely, the establishment of the Human Rights Office in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the crafting of the Philippine National Police's Human Rights Desk Operations Manual. The President also mentioned that the Department of Justice has created the DOJ Task Force, which will review all reported and unresolved cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

President Aquino also ordered the Department of Justice to withdraw all information filed before the court against the Morong 43 detainees.

"The medical workers were arrested in the waning days of the Arroyo administration on the suspicion that they were aiding NPA insurgents. These are valid concerns." Said the President. "Nevertheless, we recognize that their right to due process was denied them. As a government that is committed to the rule of law and the rights of man, this cannot stand. Therefore, I have ordered the DOJ to withdraw the informations filed before the court. This will, in effect, subject to court approval, free those among them who have no other standing warrants in other courts."

Ending his speech, the President shared words he learned from his father, the late Senator Ninoy Aquino:

Human rights has to be universal, has to be for everyone. When one's rights are violated, you set the groundwork for violating everybody's rights—so *all* includes our security forces, our peasantry, those below the poverty line, those who have more in this life.

The program ended with the President witnessing the signing of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Law of 2009, by DOJ Secretary Leila de Lima, and Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chairperson Loretta Ann Rosales.

The President's Day: December 11, 2010

This morning President Aquino headed for his home province of Tarlac to participate in Barangay Assembly Day, held in Brgy. Central, Tarlac City. This is the first Barangay Assembly Day under President Aquino's administration.

Pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991, Barangay Assembly Day is a twice-a-year meeting held of barangay officials from all over the country. It is an opportunity for barangay officials to sit down with their constituents and discuss with them pressing issues and concerns in their barangay as well as the plans and programs they wish to carry out in the next three years.

At the start of the program, President Aquino led the *Panunumpa para sa Mabuting Pamamahala* to all the newly elected barangay officials in the area.

President Aquino delivered a speech before DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, local government officials, and barangay officials, President Aquino reiterated the importance of the Barangay Assembly Day and the role of barangay officials in good governance. The President called on the barangays' continued support and cooperation in bringing about change and prosperity in our country.

The President's Day: December 12, 2010

There are no public events for today.

The President's Day: December 13, 2010

The President has three public events for today.

At 10:00 a.m., President Aquino was the Guest of Honor and Speaker at the Awarding Ceremonies of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) 2010 at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Awards is a yearly search by the TOYM Foundation and the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc. for individuals who have shown selfless dedication to their profession, passion for excellence, and compassion towards their respective communities. For the past 51 years, it has established itself as the Philippines' most prestigious award search for young men and women between the ages 18 to 40.

The President's father, the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was a recipient of the award in 1960.

President Aquino personally presented the awards to this year's winners. He was assisted by Ms. Judy Araneta-Roxas of the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc., Mr. Lorenzo Tan of the TOYM, Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales of the Supreme Court, Mr. Bienvendio Tantoco III, Mr. Manuel Van Torrevillas, and Ms. Olivia Lynn Dizon.

At 1:30 p.m., President Aquino led the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President was joined by DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman, Council on the Welfare of Children (CWC) Deputy Executive Director Ma. Elena Siochi Caraballo, Barangay Councilors League of the Philippines President Julio Arlan Dino Jaime. Together, they watched a presentation on the government's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for children and status of compliance with the CRC.

At 3:00 p.m., President Aquino received a courtesy call from the Philippine National Football Team at the Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President congratulated the National Team, which is also nicknamed the "Azkals," for reaching the semifinals of the Asian Football Federation (AFF) Suzuki Cup 2010. He also wished them well on their upcoming 2-game semi-finals series against Indonesia at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The members of the Philippine National Team are Neil Leonard Etheridge, Christopher Nicholas Camcam, Eduard Ortalla Sacapaño, Robert James Dazo Gier, Jerry Barbaso, Anton Edward Quimson del Rosario, Alexander Charles Luis Borromeo, Reymark Lavadia Palmes, Joeel Bretana Bermejo, Kristopher John Mansueto Relucio, Roel Gimena Gener, James Joseph Placer Younghusband, Philip James Placer Younghusband, Mark Anthony Gocon Ferrer, Jason Nicolas Maria Dantes de Jong, Nestorio Braga Margarse, Jr., Peter Sorilla Jaugan, Ray Anthony Pepito Jonsson, Christopher Robert Barbon Greatwich, Mark Drinkuth, Yanti Armentia Barsales, Emelio Asada Caligdong, Ian Bayona Araneta, and David Mark Sanding Basa.

The team was also joined by Head Coach Mr. Simon Alexander McMenemy. Other team officials are the following: Edwin Rublico Cabalida, Edzel Bingcang Bracamonte, Rolando Panal Pinero, Walfred dela Pas Javier, Josef Capistrano Malinay, Dan Stephen Castillo Palami, Franko Lorenzo, Patrick Raymond Olivares, Richard Veloso Pacana, Patrick Ace Bright, Jose Antonio Larrauri, and Miguel Angel Larrauri.

The President's Day: December 14, 2010

At 10:00 a.m., President Aquino met the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet Group of Korea at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The Little Angels Folk Ballet Group is a group consisting of 40 young artists (8 to 15 years old) from Seoul, Korea that presents the culture of Korea through their colorful music and dance performances. It was founded in 1962 by Dr. Bo Hi Pak and have served as envoys of peace and friendship through its many performances in over 40 nations in America, Europe, Oceania, Africa, and Asia.

The Little Angels Ballet Group are currently undergoing a world tour in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, and to express South Korea's gratitude to the countries that offered assistance during the Korean War. The Philippines is among those that sent troops to help defend South Korea against North Korea in 1950—deploying more than 7,500 troops, and with them the President's late father, Benigno Aquino Jr., as a war correspondent.

The President spent the afternoon attending to state papers and meeting with his staff at Bonifacio Hall.

At 6:00 p.m., the President attended and gave a speech at the 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) at Malacañang's Rizal Hall

The Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) is a biennial search instituted by former President Corazon Aquino that aims to recognize outstanding overseas Filipinos whose efforts have led for the advancement and improvement of the lives of our countrymen both here and abroad as well as those who have excelled in their respective professions. The PAFIOO also marks the opening of the observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and the International Migrants' Day.

President Aquino personally presented the awards to the winners. He was assisted by Chairperson Imelda Nicolas of the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO).

Later this evening, the President attended the House Reporters' Christmas Party at the Media Center in the House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

The President's Day: December 15, 2010

Today, the President went to Mindoro to attend three public events.

At 9:15 AM, the President left Manila for San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

By 10:00 AM President Aquino was on location to lead the awarding of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to the Hanuno-Ratagnon-Gubatnon (HAGURA) Coalition at the Magsaysay Municipal, Brgy. Poblacion, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro.

The Hanuno, Ratagnon, and Gubatnon are indigenous tribes living in Mindoro. In 1995, the 3 tribes banded together to form HAGURA with the aim of forging efforts in acquiring legal right and in developing the ancestral domain of their communities through the awarding of the CADT.

The CADT is an instrument under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 which gives recognition and affirms the indigenous peoples' traditional systems of land tenure, promotes and protects their rights to ancestral domain and lands, self-governance and empowerment, social justice and human rights and cultural integrity. IPRA allows the well-established land-law system of indigenous peoples to gain recognition under Philippine law.

Accompanying President Aquino in the program are NCIP Secretary Roque Agton Jr., Governor Josephine Sato of Occidental Mindoro, Governor Alfonso Umali Jr. of Oriental Mindoro, Representative Reynaldo Umali of the 2nd District of Oriental Mindoro, Representative Amelita Villarosa of the Lone District of Occidental Mindoro, Mayor Eleonor Fajardo of Magsaysay, Mayor Jose Villarosa of San Jose, and Mayor Enrilo Villas of Bulalacao.

At 12:00 noon, President Aquino arrived at Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. There, he administered the mass oath-taking of new Liberal Party members at the Session Hall of the Provincial Capitol, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. He also inspected the ongoing infrastructure projects at the Jose J. Leido, Jr. Memorial National High School, particularly the improvement of the Oriental Mindoro Memorial Sports Complex, in preparation for the MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Meet 2011.

At 1:00 PM, President Aquino led the inauguration of the New Calapan City Public Market. The President led the ribbon-cutting ceremony and unveiling of the project marker which formally opens the said facility.

The New Calapan City Public Market is a two-storey building with almost 9,000 square meter floor area. Boasting a modern design and complete amenities, the facility can house over 1,000 market vendors, making it the center of the bustling and robust local economy of Calapan City.

The President was accompanied by Oriental Mindoro Governor, Alfonso Umali, Jr. and Calapan City Mayor, Paulino Salvado Leachon, several local government officials, vendors, consumers, and local residents.

The President's Day: December 16, 2010

Today, President Aquino led the launching of the New Generation Bank Notes for P20, P50, P100,P200, P500, and P1,000 bills, which bear the signature of His Excellency as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

The launching of the new Philippine Bank Notes forms part of the New Generation Currency Series, a program of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas featuring new designs of Philippine banknotes for all denominations. The new designs pay tribute to Filipinos who played significant roles at various moments in our nation's history. World heritage sites and iconic natural wonders that Filipinos can take pride of are also highlighted.

As a matter of practice, Central Banks around the world regularly change the designs of their currencies to guard against counterfeiters. In BSP's case, the current redesign of the Philippine Currency not only updated its security features, but also changed its overall look to reflect the changing times in our country's history.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and the BSP Board of Directors presented the New Currency to President Aquino. Also present at the launch were National Treasurer Roberto Tan, Senators, Congressmen, Supreme Court Justices, members of the business community, the Diplomatic Corps, and representatives of the families of heroes featured on the new currency.

The President's Day: December 17, 2010

This morning, President Aquino received a courtesy call from graduates of the Porsche Training & Recruitment Center Asia (PTRCA) at the President's Conference Room, Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The PTRCA is a *mechatronic* (mechanic and electronic) school and the first and only Porsche training and recruitment facility outside Germany. It was created in December 2007 through the collaboration of PGA Cars, Porsche AG, and the Don Bosco Technical Institute. It conducts a nine-month program that aims to train students in maintenance, service, installation work and, simple repairs.

The individuals who visited the President were from the 4th batch of graduates, composed of 10 PTRCA scholars who came from the underprivileged youth nominated by the Salesian brothers of the Don Bosco Technical Institute. They graduated last October 2010 after undergoing a strict selection process and training program by Porsche AG (Porsche, Inc).

Graduates of PTRCA are assured of jobs in Porsche centers around the world. Of the 10 scholars of the 4th batch, five will be assigned to centers in the Middle East while the other five, for the first time, in Latin America. They will join the other 48 graduates of the first three batches who are now working overseas in various Porsche Centers.

President Aquino, a self-confessed car lover, was impressed with the graduates' specialized training on one of the most technically sophisticated automobiles in the world. He praised the graduates for their dedication to their profession and encouraged them to perform well and exemplify Filipino talent overseas. The President also thanked the executives of PTRCA for giving the students the opportunity to show their potential and improve the living conditions of their families.

At 11:30 AM, President Aquino received Ms. Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala for an interview for the production of a documentary on the life of the late former President Corazon Aquino at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace. The documentary, along with the interview, is set to be aired on History (formerly the History Channel).

Ms. Alikpala is a broadcast journalist, director, producer, and owner of the Asian Eye Productions (AEP), which produces documentaries for the History™ (formerly History Channel). In May 2010, the AEP also produced a documentary entitled "The Assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr.", also aired on History.

At 3:00 PM, President Aquino attended and gave a speech at the launching of the book titled "*The Inaugural*," by Ms. Maria Montelibano at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila.

The book chronicles the President's inaugural through images by senior photo-journalists and accounts written by participants of the unique, volunteer-powered campaign that brought President Benigno S. Aquino III to the presidency.

Speaking before the book's producers, local government officials, GK Officials, KABAKA volunteers, and local residents of Manila, the President thanked the makers of the book for putting enormous effort in chronicling this important event in our country's history.

He also assured the audience that the campaign slogan, "*Kung walang corrupt walang mahirap*," continues to hold true in his administration. He enumerates the programs that the government is doing in fulfillment of this oath and campaign promise, particularly, those concerning poverty reduction and good governance.

At around 8:00 PM, President Aquino attended a Christmas Party held for the personnel of the Office of the President at the Mabini Hall Grounds, Malacañan Palace.

With senior government officials of the Office of the President, led by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, the President joined the Malacañang employees for a buffet dinner, and was entertained by production numbers prepared by the event organizers. He also led the picking of grand prize raffle winners of two Multicab all-purpose vans and other major prizes.

The President's Day: December 18, 2010

This evening, President Aquino attended the Presidential Security Group (PSG) Christmas Ball at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President was joined by his sisters, several members from the Cabinet, PSG Commander Col. Chito Dizon, and officers of the Presidential Security Group. Also present at the ball were officials from the Department of National Defense, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine Navy.

The President's Day: December 19, 2010

This evening, President Aquino watched the premiere of the film “Dalaw” at the TriNoMa Mall in Quezon City.

The President is at the premiere to support his sister, Kris, who plays the lead character in the horror film. The movie “Dalaw” is also Star Cinema’s official entry to the prestigious 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Later that evening, President Aquino was at the Annual Aquino Christmas Party at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President enjoyed the evening with a simple dinner and gathering with his sisters Ballsy, Pinky, Viel, and Kris, along with their entire families, security, and staff.

The President's Day: December 20, 2010

At 11:00 a.m., President Aquino, National Economic Development Authority Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, Jr., and members of the Cabinet led by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, convened the 1st National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

As per Executive Order No. 230, series of 1987, the NEDA Board is the country's premier social and economic development planning and policy coordinating body vested with the authority to formulate continuing, coordinated, and fully integrated social and economic policies, plans, and programs for the development of our country. The Board is mandated to meet at least once a month, or as frequently as necessary, to discharge its responsibilities as called for by the President.

The last NEDA Board meeting was held last June this year.

Among the items discussed on the meeting were the updates on Public-Private Partnerships, projects like the Northrail-Southrail Linkage Project Phase II (NSLP II), the Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Areas Development Project II (MINSSAD), and the Cebu Ports Authority's (CPA) Management Information System (MIS) Project. Also discussed are the proposals for the Modification of the Business Name Registration Fees and the extension of the effectivity of the zero rates of import duties on cement, cement clinker, and milling (food) wheat.

Present in the meeting are Usec. Benjie Martinez of the OVP-HUDCC, DOF Usec. John Philip Sevilla, DBM Sec. Florencio B. Abad, DA Sec. Proceso Alcala, DOE Sec. Jose Rene Almendras, DENR Sec. Ramon Paje, DPWH Sec. Rogelio Singson, DOST Sec. Mario G. Montejo, DOT OIC Maria Theresa Martinez, DTI Sec. Gregory Domingo, DOTC Sec. Jose de Jesus, PMS Sec. Julia Andrea Abad, MMDA Sec. Francis Tolentino, MinDA Sec. Luwalhati Antonino, CICT OIC Monchito Ibrahim, BSP Dep. Gov. Diwa Guinigundo, ARMM Gov. Ansaruddin Adiong, and ULAP President Mayor Benjamin C. Abalos, Jr.

At 3:35 p.m., President Aquino led this year's "Presidential Salubong" at the NAIA Terminal 1, Pasay City. Together with DOLE Undersecretary Danilo Cruz, OWWA Chief Carmelita Dimzon, and ranking officials from sponsors like Land Bank of the Philippines, Globe, BDO, BPI, SM Supermalls, and Duty Free Philippines, the President welcomed Overseas Filipino Workers from Qatar Airways Flight QR-646.

The highlight of the program is the lottery selection of three (3) passengers who will each receive a total of 450,000 Php worth of cash and gift certificates. President Aquino personally awarded the prizes to the three lucky winners, namely, Gilbert Acebedo, Evangeline Escano, and Myrna Pagkaliwanagan, all of whom are overseas Filipino workers based in Doha, Qatar.

The Presidential Salubong is part of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's annual program "Pamaskong Handong para sa OFW," which aims to honor the country's new heroes and recognize their contributions to national development.

This year's theme, "Pamilyang OFW, Masayang Sama-Sama Ngayong Pasko," hopes to inculcate in the OFW communities the positive values of family orientation and social consciousness, particularly in extending a helping hand to those who have less in life.

At 6:00 p.m., President Aquino attended the Presidential Security Group (PSG) Christmas Party at the PSG Grandstand, Malacañang Park, Manila.

The President and his sisters joined the whole command of the Presidential Security Guard, which includes the officers, enlisted men, and their families, in the festivities, where they took part in the activities and enjoyed dinner prepared by the event organizers.

The President's Day: December 21, 2010

At 9:00 AM, President Aquino attended the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) 75th Anniversary Parade and Review at the General Headquarters Grandstand, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Upon arriving, the President was welcomed by DND Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Ricardo David Jr., Commanding General of the Army Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz, Acting Flag-Officer-in-Command of the Navy RAdm Danilo Ortiz, and Commanding General of the Air Force Lt. Gen. Arturo Rabena.

At the start of the program, General Ricardo David Jr., presented the AFP's Internal Peace Security Plan (IPSP) to President Aquino.

The IPSP is document that embodies a "Paradigm Shift" in how the AFP views internal security operations. It focuses on winning the peace instead of defeating the enemy and gives equal emphasis on the combat and noncombat dimensions of military operations, and calls for the development of additional noncombat parameters for success.

Speaking before the members of the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, Senators, Congressmen, local government officials, military officers, retirees, and troops of the AFP, President Aquino enumerated the steps that his administration, the DND, and the AFP leadership has taken in modernizing the country's Armed Forces, in expanding soldiers' benefits, and in increasing its ranks.

The President also announced that he signed an Executive Order on Monday amending Executive Order No. 658 which effectively increases the combat pay of soldiers to P500 from the current P240. The new rate shall take effect in January next year.

The President also led the awarding of medals to the following soldiers and civilians who distinguished themselves in the service of the armed forces: Rear Admiral Alexander Pama (Distinguished Service Star); Cpt. Marlou Parugrug, Sgt. Celso Llena and Sgt. Louie Lagrama (Gold Cross Medal); Maj. Jeffrey Alan Pizarro (Outstanding Achievement Medal); Sgt. Delfin Olotio (AFP Enlisted Personnel of the Year); Cadet Col. Neil Brian Casem (ROTC Cadet of the Year); Lydia Cabajar (Model Civilian Supervisor of the Year); and Barangay Balayangon Chairman Francisco Llagao of Pinukpuk, Kalinga for his support to the AFP internal security operations in Kalinga.

The President later inspected the country's troops in the AFP's Annual Parade and Review.

At 11:00 a.m., President Aquino paid a visit to the AFP Medical Center, V. Luna, Quezon City.

Together with DND Secretary Gazmin, AFP Chief Gen. David and Acting Commander AFP Medical Center, Col. Avancena, President Aquino led the distribution of Presidential Social Fund (PSF) checks to the wounded soldiers in the hospital ranging from P50,000 to P100,000 depending on the severity of their injuries.

Later at the same venue, the President gave a check to the Hydrocephalus Foundation, Inc. as part of PAGCOR project, Pamaskong Handog ng Pagcor 2010 – 12 Days of Christmas.

The project is a gift-giving event intended to give a more meaningful Christmas to almost 6,000 beneficiaries in 24 chosen charitable institutions within Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Beneficiaries include orphans/abandoned children; the elderly, deaf, & mute; children & adult cancer patients in charity wards; mentally ill patients; inmates; and retired & wounded soldiers. PAGCOR has specifically chosen the conduct of the project this Christmas in less known charitable institutions in the hope that PAGCOR can help generate awareness about their advocacies so that other generous benefactors will eventually support their cause.

Later that evening, President Aquino joined DND Secretary Gazmin, General David, and the AFP Commanders and active Generals for the AFP 75th Anniversary Dinner at the Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Club, Camp Aguinaldo.

The President's Day: December 22, 2010

President Aquino celebrated two weddings today.

At 3:00 PM, President Aquino attended the wedding of Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez at The Peak, Terrazas De Punta Fuego, Nasugbu, Batangas.

Ogie Alcasid, born Honorio Veruca Alcasid, Jr., is known as a singer, songwriter, composer, actor, TV host, and entrepreneur while Regine Velasquez, born Regina Encarnacion Ansong Velasquez, is a known singer, actress, producer, and TV host.

The wedding was attended by leading personalities in the fields of politics, business, and show-business. Also at the wedding was the President's sister, Ms. Kris Aquino.

The President was at the wedding as a guest of honor and one of Ogie Alcasid's groomsmen.

This evening, President Aquino went to Tagaytay to attend the wedding reception of Gerrard Valte and Deputy Presidential Spokesperson, Undersecretary Abigail dela Fuente-Valte, who were married 3:00 PM at San Antonio de Padua Parish Church, Silang, Cavite.

The President's Day: December 23, 2010

This morning President Aquino received a courtesy call from international singer Apl.de.ap at the President's Yellow Room at Bonifacio Hall.

Apl.de.ap, born Allan Pineda Lindo Jr., is a Filipino-American singer from the internationally-acclaimed pop group, the Black Eyed Peas. He is here in the Philippines to join his family for the holidays and to look into several charitable projects he intends to pursue under his APL Foundation.

One of these projects is called "The Second Room," which aims to build additional classrooms for Filipino school children, which will initially be launched in the province of Pampanga. The singer said he has already allotted one hundred thousand US dollars (US\$100,000) as initial funding for the project. Aside from school buildings, the project also aims to provide reading materials to students.

Before leaving, Apl.de.ap gave President Aquino a CD of the Black Eyed Peas' latest album, "The Beginning," as a token for the President.

At 10:30 AM, President Aquino presided over the Urban Poor Meeting at the Bonifacio Hall Conference Room.

With DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman, DOTC Secretary Jose de Jesus, DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, Presidential Legal Counsel Eduardo de Mesa, MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino, Vice President Jejomar Binay, Manila City Mayor Alfredo Lim, and members of the urban poor communities led by Urban Poor Associates (UPA) Project Coordinator Alice Murphy, they discussed how the government and its line agencies can help urban poor communities improve their conditions and get out of the poverty cycle.

This afternoon, at 1:30 PM, President Aquino granted an interview to Philippine STARweek Editor, Ms. Doreen Yu and Philippine Star Senior Reporter, Ms. Aurea Calica. The interview was held at the Executive Secretary's Conference Room.

The interview focused on what the President wants to achieve in 2011, on areas like the economy, business, industry, foreign affairs, judicial reform, governance (including investigation and prosecution of corruption cases), security, peace and order, police/military reform, tourism, health, arts and culture, and on how he intends to get these done.

The full interview with President Aquino will be published as the cover story for STARweek magazine's 2011 New Year Edition.

At 3:00 PM, President Aquino met with Korina Sanchez and former Vice President Noli de Castro for an interview at the Yellow Room.

The interview is for the ABS-CBN's Yearender Interview with the President, entitled "Mula sa Pinoy, Para kay PNoy," which focuses on the President's life after almost six months in office. It intends to give Filipinos a glimpse on how the President has adjusted since the time he first walked inside Malacañang, as the person holding the highest position in government.

Among the things discussed in the interview were details regarding his personal life such as the President's favorite spot in the Palace, his favorite food, his favorite outfit, hobbies, and past times. On a more serious note, the President was asked regarding his views on issues like the Reproductive Health (RH) Bill, the education budget, the Truth Commission, and his plans for the year 2011.

At 4:00 PM, President Aquino received Dr. Reynaldo Dante Juanta, the Philippine Honorary Consul to Australia, at the Bonifacio Hall Conference Room.

President Aquino and Dr. Reynaldo Dante Juanta discussed issues concerning Filipino-Australian relations and the various concerns of overseas Filipino living and working in Australia.

The President's Day: December 24, 2010

The President has no public events for today.

He is spending the Christmas weekend privately with family and friends.

The President's Day: December 25, 2010

Today, President Aquino officially released his first Christmas Message for all Filipinos.

In his statement, the President praised the qualities that make the Filipino celebration of Christmas remarkable and unique. The President challenges everyone to take to heart the true meaning of Christmas—to love our fellowmen as Christ loved us—in order to hasten our country's journey to prosperity.

President Aquino is spending the Christmas weekend privately with family and friends.

The President's Day: December 26, 2010

The President has no public events for today.

He is spending the Christmas weekend privately with family and friends.

The President's Day: December 27, 2010

Today, President Aquino signed the 2011 National Budget at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President signed the landmark RA 10147 or the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2011 amounting to P1.645 Trillion. This year's budget used the Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) approach, wherein all items had to be justified first before its budget was approved.

The 2011 budget is a budget of many firsts: It is the first budget that integrated in its GAA text the transparency and accountability provision or the general and special provisions that requires the disclosure of important budgetary appropriations and information using new information technology. This is also the first time in 11 years that the appropriations bill was signed into law at the same year it was submitted to the President.

In his speech, the President thanked the members of Congress, and the officials of the Department of Budget and Management for their efforts in passing the 2011 Budget in record time. He goes on to say that the government will "now have the means to fulfill our people's aspirations for a government that pursues national development along transparent, accountable lines, and with maximum efficiency."

The President concluded, "I expect the Executive department to live up to the trust imposed by the people through Congress by adhering faithfully and thoroughly to both the spirit and the letter of the law."

The President's Day: December 28, 2010

The President has no public events for today.

He spent the day attending to state papers and meeting with his personal staff.

The President's Day: December 29, 2010

President Aquino has no public events for the day.

The President's Day: December 30, 2010

This morning at 7:00 AM, President Aquino led the 114th Anniversary Celebration of the Martyrdom of Jose Rizal at the Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila.

With the theme, "Rizal: Haligi ng Bayan," this year's observance of the Martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal pays tribute to his patriotism, heroism, and martyrdom. It also serves as a kick-off for the 150th Anniversary of our National Hero's birth.

Dr. Rizal continues to hold the acclamation of the Filipino people and to his great contributions and significant role in the political, social, and historic transformation of our country, which led to the founding of our Republic.

President Aquino presided over the simple but meaningful ceremony, which started with the Raising of the National Flag, followed by the Wreath-laying Ceremony to the Rizal Monument, and ended with the Unveiling of the Logo of the 114th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jose Rizal.

Also at the event, organized by the National Historical Commission, were Vice President Jejomar Binay, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr., Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, National Economic and Development Authority Director General Cayetano Paderanga, and National Historical Commission Chairman Dr. Ambeth Ocampo.

The President's Day: December 31, 2010

The President spent the New Year weekend in the Mansion House in Baguio City, attending to state papers and spending time with his family.

The President's Day: January 1, 2011

The President spent the New Year weekend in the Mansion House in Baguio City, attending to state papers and spending time with his family.

The President's Day: January 2, 2011

The President spent the New Year weekend in the Mansion House in Baguio City, attending to state papers and spending time with his family.

The President's Day: January 3, 2011

President Aquino has no public events scheduled for today.

After welcoming the New Year and spending the entire weekend with his family at the Mansion House in Baguio City, he returned to Manila early morning.

By afternoon, the President worked on several state papers before attending a briefing prepared by his staff.

The President's Day: January 4, 2010

This morning, at the Philippine Navy Headquarters in Manila, President Aquino witnessed the installation ceremonies of RAdm. Alexander Pama as the new Philippine Navy Flag Officer-in-Command (PN FOIC), and the retirement rites for RAdm. Danilo Cortez.

Speaking before top national government officials, and the leadership of the Armed Forces and the Philippine Navy, President Aquino commended RAdm. Cortez—turned 56 on this day—for his efforts in implementing the Coast Watch South Initiative under the Navy Strategic Sail Plan 2010, the Coast Watch System, and for the Navy's disaster response and humanitarian relief efforts during past disasters and calamities.

The President also cited the achievements of incoming PN FOIC RAdm. Alexander Pama, both as commander of the naval forces in Western Mindanao and as a Distinguished Service Star Awardee, as proof of his capability to take the helm of the Philippine Navy. The President trusts that under the leadership of RAdm. Pama, the Philippine Navy will continue to play a vital role not only in terms of security, but also in the growth and development of our country.

This afternoon, President Aquino witnessed the Presentation of Credentials of six (6) Non-Resident Ambassadors-Designate at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

The President welcomed and received the Letter of Credence of H.E. Gebhard Benjamin Kandanga of Namibia, H.E. Abdelmalek Bouheddou of Algeria, H.E. An Song Nam of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, H.E. Jorge Castañeda Mendez of Peru, H.E. Beibut Atamkulov of Kazakhstan, and H.E. Joseph Hayes of Ireland.

The ceremony is an occasion to welcome the new Heads of Mission to the Philippines at the start of their assignment before the President's New Year *Vin d' Honneur* scheduled for this Friday.

The President's Day: January 5, 2010

This morning, President Aquino met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr., Department of Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose de Jesus, Department of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Eduardo de Mesa at the President's Conference Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace, to discuss various national issues.

The meeting lasted until 12:00 noon.

At 2:00 PM, the President Aquino, attended a presentation by Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Joel Rudinas and National Food Authority Administrator Angelito Banayo of the Philippine Food Staples Self-Sufficiency and NFA Roadmaps for 2011-2016 at the President's Conference Room, Premiere Guest House, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila.

Also at the presentation were Department of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Department of Budget and Management Secretary Florencio Abad, and Department of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala.

Later, at 3:00 PM, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Japanese Senators Hirohiko Nakamura and Shinsuke Suematsu at the Yellow Room, Premiere Guest House, Malacanang Palace Complex, Manila.

The two Japanese Senators are here to discuss ways to improve relations between the people of the Philippines and Japan.

The President's Day: January 6, 2010

At 10AM this morning, President Aquino was a guest-of-honor and a keynote speaker at the naming of Adani Group's newly built bulk carrier ships: the M/V Rahi and M/V Vanshi, built by Hanjin Heavy Industries Corporation (HHIC) at the HHIC's shipyard in Sitio Agusuhin, Bgy. Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Subic, Zambales.

The President witnessed the naming of the two ships, led by Ms. Rahi Adani & Ms. Vanshi Adani, daughters of Mr. Rajesh Adani, the Managing Director of the Adani Group. President Aquino then led the rope-cutting ceremony, followed by the customary champagne-breaking rites for the two vessels.

Speaking to officials of the Hanjin Heavy Industries Corporation, the Adani Group, the Indian and South Korean Ambassadors, and members of the local and national government, President Aquino said, "Today Koreans make up a significant portion of our expatriate community and Korean investors like Hanjin are among the most aggressive in placing their bets on the Philippines.

"Thank you for your continued belief in us, and for your unwavering confidence in the Philippines ... I assure you that this confidence in the Philippines is not misplaced."

Hanjin Heavy Industries Corporation is a South Korean shipbuilding firm that focuses on building very large container ships, liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers, tankers, and bulk carriers. It is also South Korea's largest carrier, transporting over 100 million tons of cargo annually in the world. The company operates a shipyard in Subic, valued at US\$1.9 billion. They are currently building a second shipyard in Misamis Oriental, which is due to be completed in 2017.

The Adani Group, on the other hand, is one of the fastest growing professionally owned enterprises in India. It has a diverse yet profitable business portfolio, which include Edible Oil, Logistics, Power Generation, Coal, Oil and Gas Exploration, Gas distribution, Real Estate, Ports, Special Economic Zones, and IT enabled services. The company's revenues reached US\$ 5.856 billion as of March 2009.

Later that evening, and after an afternoon of meetings with select members of his Cabinet, President Aquino joined Cebu Pacific Air in celebrating the company's milestone as it served its 50 millionth passenger, Mr. Harold Toifl, a 34-year-old Austrian, who will be flying from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 to Beijing, China.

Together with Cebu Pacific President and CEO Lance Gokongwei, Cebu Pacific Air Chairman Emeritus John Gokongwei, Jr., and JG Summit Holdings, Inc. Chairman James L. Go, President Aquino awarded the 1-year unlimited travel pass to Mr. Toifl, which he can use to any of Cebu Pacific's 16 international and Domestic destinations. The President suggested that Mr. Toifl use the pass to get to know the Philippine Islands and its vibrant culture.

As part of the ceremonies, the President also witnessed a brief Safety Demo Dance by selected Cebu Pacific Air cabin crew members and flight attendants.

In his speech, the President congratulated Cebu Pacific for their success. "Congratulations to Cebu Pacific for reaching record high altitude in your business. Since you first took flight in almost 15 years ago, you have soared from one success to another. From offering flights only to domestic destinations, you have expanded your operations to other parts of Asia. Now, Cebu Pacific Air is the third largest low-cost carrier in the region."

President Aquino also mentioned the government's plans of liberalizing the domestic and international industry, "Once implemented, we expect more international airlines to enter the market. Aside from opening our doors to more visitors that will strengthen our tourism, this will also allow us to enjoy a free market for products to further boost our economy."

“I am aware of the concerns of our local carriers and I can assure you that as we liberalize aviation, it will be undertaken in a way that will open up opportunities for competitive and world class domestic carriers like Cebu Pacific,” President Aquino added.

The President's Day: January 7, 2011

At 10 AM this morning, President Aquino hosted his first *Vin D'Honneur* at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacanan Palace, Manila.

As was the custom, Vice President and Mrs. Jejomar Binay, was the one who first greeted the President in his first ever *Vin D'Honneur*. He was followed by Senate President and Mrs. Juan Ponce Enrile, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Chief Justice and Mrs. Renato Corona, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Edward Joseph Adams, members of the Diplomatic Corps and their spouses, members of the Cabinet, and national government officials.

After receiving the guests, the President entered the Rizal Ceremonial Hall and was welcomed to the tune of "Mabuhay." He was later joined by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Edward Joseph Adams as they listened to the Philippine National Anthem.

Referring to a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showing that 93% of Filipinos are entering year 2011 with more hope, an improvement from last year's 89 percent, President Aquino started his New Year toast saying, "Their optimism will be validated. This year, businesses will invest more in this country, creating new jobs for families. This year, government resources will be spent to uplift the lives of the poor. This year, the Philippines will once again be a voice in the world for freedom and fairness."

"There will be challenges ahead—from an uncertain outlook for the global economy, to a noisy minority who want to rekindle the malicious practices of the past."

"But if we work together, we will overcome the challenges and fulfill the promise of the year ahead. We have much to look forward to."

The President ended his toast with the statement, "Your Excellencies, may we lift our glasses to a prosperous and peaceful New Year for all of us in 2011!"

Vin d'Honneur is a French term which means "wine of honor." It traditionally takes place at the end of inaugurations, speeches and ceremonies that marks the social life of the French provinces. The yearly practice dates back to the American colonial period, under the Philippine Governor-Generals. It was carried over by the President of the Commonwealth and continues on to this day.

Later this afternoon, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Mr. Mika "the Iceman" Immonen at the Yellow Room, Premiere Guest House, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila.

Mr. Immonen is a European professional pool player who won the International Challenge of Champions at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, USA in October 2010 against Filipino pool champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante. He is a two-time Men's Division title-holder of the US Open Nine-ball Championship from 2008 to 2009. A Photo Opportunity Session proceeded after the brief meet and greet. Mr. Immonen was accompanied by PCSO Publicity and Public Relations Department Manager Manuel Garcia and his three family members.

The President's Day: January 8, 2011

The President spent his Saturday morning privately, meeting with his personal staff.

At 12:30 PM, President Aquino attended the closing ceremonies of the 58th General Assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) at the Grand Ballroom of the Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila.

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) is an association of 122 cities with the main function of articulating, ventilating, and crystalizing issues affecting city governments. For this term, the member cities agreed to take a more proactive and collaborative role in nation building.

The League presented to President Aquino the LCP Strategy Map (LCP Roadmap) and Manifesto of Support that envisions all cities to be the engines of sustainable development, champions of good urban governance, and catalysts for nation building committed to the improvement of the quality of life of their constituents, by 2016.

The LCP Roadmap also complements the call of the President to make good governance a platform for social development. It is a clear manifestation of the cities' effort to align their objectives with that of the administration.

Aside from the LCP Roadmap, the League also presented to President Aquino the two Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) that the group went into: first, with the Institute of Solidarity in Asia (ISA) for the adoption of the Performance Governance Scorecard (PGS) to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in strategizing and implementing initiatives to promote and sustain the development of their cities, and second, with the Department of Education (DepEd), to split the cost of constructing additional classrooms that seeks to address classroom shortages across Philippine cities.

Accompanying President Aquino at the LCP General Assembly were Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo and former Senator Manuel Roxas II.

Later that day, President Aquino went back to the Malacañan Palace to attend to state papers.

At 8:00 in the evening, President Aquino attended a concert, entitled, "TATLO: A Choral Celebration—Manila, Philippines" at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theatre) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Pasay City.

The concert is a celebration of music with Asia's premiere conductors and their choirs—the Ateneo Chamber Singers, Japan's Gala Philharmonic Choir and Singapore's SYC Ensemble Singers. It is a series of joint concerts, held once every two years, when the three choirs of conductors from three Asian countries, sing together.

ACS was formed in 2002. It specializes in sacred choral music which opened a rich eclectic mix of European, American, and Asian choral literature that spans from medieval to postmodern period, from traditional to contemporary style, from complex art music to highly textured indigenous music.

The President's Day: January 9, 2011

The President has no public events for the day.

The President's Day: January 11, 2011

At 10:00 this morning, President Aquino met with his Economic Team at the President's Conference Room of Bonifacio Hall to discuss the Infrastructure Summit and the Housing Sector Budget.

At 1:30 this afternoon, President Aquino crossed to Rizal Hall to attend to the oath-taking ceremonies of newly appointed government officials.

Those who took their oath are the following:

From the Office of the President: Remedios Ignacio-Rikken as Chairperson for the Philippine Commission on Women, Ludovico Badoy as Executive Director for the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and Jose Gutierrez as Director General for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

From the Department of Finance: Commissioner Emmanuel Dooc for the Insurance Commission, Chairman Emmanuel Santiaguel for the Cooperative Development Authority, Gregorio Yu as member of the GSIS Board of Directors, and Roman Felipe Reyes as a member of the GSIS Board of Directors.

For the Department of Foreign Affairs: Hon. Ma. Consuelo Puyat-Reyes as Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, Hon. Carlos Salinas as Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and Hon. Noe Wong as Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

For the Department of Trade and Industry: Engr. Ramon Allado as Chairman for the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board, and Maria Theresa Pelayo-Ty as Assistant Secretary.

For the Department of Transportation and Communications: Vicente T. Suazo, Jr. as Commissioner for the Cebu Port Commission, Engr. Benjamin C. Akol as Commissioner for the Cebu Port Commission, Atty. Joselito O. Pedaria as Commissioner for the Cebu Port Commission, Atty. Tomas A. Rivala as Commissioner for the Cebu Port Commission, Engr. Dennis R. Villamor, as Commissioner for the Cebu Port Commission, Norberto Nazareno as Chairman for the Philippine National Railways Corporation, and Ramon S. Gutierrez as Deputy Director General for the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Atty. Michelle Angelica D. Go as Acting Assistant Secretary.

For the Department of Justice: Eric Dimaculangan as Acting Deputy Executive Director of the Bureau of Immigration.

For the Commission on Population: Dr. Rodrigo D. Tano as Commissioner, representing inter-faith groups and Benjamin D. de Leon also as Commissioner, representing non-government organizations.

Also at the oath-taking ceremonies were newly appointed generals and flag officers of the Philippine Armed Forces, namely, Lt. Gen. Juancho M. Sabban (Commander, WESCOM, AFP); Maj. Gen. Francisco N. Cruz (Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, AFP); Rear Admiral Nestor S. Losbañes, (Commander, NETC, Philippine Navy); Maj. Gen. Carlos E. Luces (Commander, LAD, Philippine Navy); Maj. Gen. Renato A. David (Commander, SOCOM, Philippine Army); Brig. Gen. Rolando B. Tenebrancia (C, ARMO, Philippine Army); Brig. Gen. Nicanor E. Dolojan (DC, SOCOM, Philippine Army); Brig. Gen. Rolando C. Amarille (Commander, 101 Infantry Brigade, 11D, Philippine Army); Commodore Roberto V. Santos (ADCS for Education & Training, AFP); Commodore Joseph Rostum O. Peña (Commander, ACF, Philippine Fleet, Philippine Navy); Brig. Gen. Wilfredo O. Ona (WC, 410MW, Philippine Air Force), and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey F. Delgado (SMA to the President, Armed Forces of the Philippines).

Later that afternoon, also at Rizal hall, President Aquino led the conferment of the 2010 Gawad Career Executive Service Award.

The Gawad Career Executive Service Award is a Presidential award that recognizes members in the Career Executive Service (CES) for their exemplary performance and significant contributions, particularly in the areas of innovation, information and communication technology, social services, administrative reforms, and public policy.

This year's awardees are: Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Regional Director Urduja A. Tejada of the Department of Science and Technology Region II, Undersecretary Mario C. Villaverde of the Department of Health, and Director Denis F. Villoriente of the Advance Science and Technology Institute, Department of Science and Technology.

A Gawad Career Executive Service winner shall receive a plaque with the Presidential Seal and a prize money amounting to P100,000.00.

The President's Day: January 12, 2010

The President spent the entire morning in a series of meetings at the Palace Conference Hall. He then had a private lunch. Afterwards, he attended to state papers while preparing for his meeting with DBM Secretary Florencio Abad.

President Aquino spent the afternoon with Secretary Abad at the President's Conference Room of Malacañang's Bonifacio Hall.

The President's Day: January 13, 2011

At 10 am this morning, President Aquino received a courtesy call from the 19 Filipino Teams who participated in the 2010 World Robot Olympiad at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President was delighted with the impressive showing of the 19 Philippine Teams at the recent competition, even besting teams from industrialized countries who have been in the field for a long time. The teams also presented their creations to the President, where he musingly remarked that the things they were doing has really gone a long way from his time of punch cards and floppy disks.

The President encouraged the youth to pursue fields in the sciences, but was also saddened with the statistics showing a lack of interest among the youth in pursuing degrees in the field of engineering or science.

“You know, a sad statistic in our country is we have a hundred students entering grade one, only 14 will graduate college. And, of the 14, there are only two that are going to an engineering or science field. And, that retards our ability to grow our industrial base especially since ‘yung semi-conductors among other things are our primary exports.”

President Aquino mentioned the strides that Filipino scientists and engineers have done both here and abroad and said that things are finally looking up for this specialized field. He even cited several examples as to how science is helping solve our nation's problems.

The President ended his statement by congratulating the participants and reiterating his administration's full support for their sector.

At 10:30 am, President Aquino taped a Video Message for the Electronic Accessibility and Information Device Project (E-Aid Project) at one of the rooms at the Malacañan Palace.

The E-AID, designed and patented by Michelle Bautista of the Heirs of the World, consists of a kiosk- or booth-like structure with an electronic alarm system. A PWD would only have to press a button to call the attention of people assigned to assist them in crossing the street. The E-AID can also work as a distress signal so authorities and the community can help PWDs in need of emergency help.

Around 50 units installed in the whole of San Juan City, or about two kiosks per barangay depending on the area. Designed with audio, visual and Braille instructions, the E-AID also doubles as an additional waiting area for PWDs.

At 11:00 am, the President received NADECOR's Peping Ricafort for a courtesy call at the Malacañan Palace. After the courtesy call, the President had a private lunch at the Palace.

At 2 pm in the afternoon, President Aquino attended the Oath-taking Ceremonies of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City where he also gave a speech and administered the oaths of office to the newly elected officials.

In his speech, President Aquino highlighted the role of barangays in nation building, saying, “Ang barangay ang unang takbuhan ng mga mamamayan tuwing may agarang pangangailangan. Hindi sa munisipyo; hindi sa presinto. Hawak ninyo ang responsibilidad, pananalapi at yaman upang maihatid ang mga serbisyong panlipunan sa inyong mga kabarangay sa pinakamabilis at pinakamasinop na paraan.”

The President also said that he remains hopeful that the barangays will continue to be government's partners in effecting reform and implementing much-needed programs in our country, particularly, the government's Conditional Cash Transfer program.

Accompanying the President at the program were DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo and LMB National President Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri.

After the event, President Aquino went back to the Malacañan Palace where he attended a series of meetings at the President's Conference Room with his staff and several officials. The meeting ran until late evening.

The President's Day: January 14, 2011

Today, President Aquino headed to the Bicol region, and the provinces of Southern Leyte and Agusan del Norte to personally assess and observe the effects of the flash floods caused by the Tail End of the Cold Front (TECF).

At 6:00 in the morning, President Aquino left his official residence at the Bahay Pangarap for Villamor Airbase in Pasay City, where at 6:30 AM, he departed for Legazpi City Airport, Albay, aboard the F28 Presidential Plane. Joining the President on the trip to Legazpi City were DND Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, DA Secretary Proceso Alacala, DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson, DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman, DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and OCD Administrator/NDRRMC Executive Officer Undersecretary Benito Ramos.

At around 7:00 am, the President arrived at Legazpi City.

President Aquino and his party were received by Albay Governor Joey Salceda, Legazpi City Mayor Carmen Geraldine Rosal, Albay District 1 Representative Edcel Lagman, Albay District 2 Representative Al Francis Bichara, Albay District 3 Representative Fernando Gonzalez, Police Regional Office 5 Regional Director P/CSupt. Cecillo Calleja, Jr., 9th Infantry Division Commander MGen. Ruperto Pabustan, NAVFORSOL Commander Commodore Joel Babas.

The President then proceeded to the Tactical Operations Group (TOG) 5 VIP Lounge for a briefing on the effects of the TECF in the Bicol Region, prepared by OCD Director and RDRRMC5 Chairman Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV covering the effects of the TECF in the three provinces of the Bicol Region. The report focused on the devastation in the province of Albay—the most severely affected in the region. Director Alejandro also mentioned the prevalence of diseases affecting the people both in and out the evacuation centers.

PAGASA Regional Director Dr. Landrico Dalida followed with a brief report on the weather outlook for the forthcoming months as both the effects of the TECF and La Niña are expected to prevail until March 2011.

After the briefings, President Aquino proceeded to the Legazpi Airport hangar to lead the turn-over of relief goods to Albay Governor Joey Salceda. The President was assisted by DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman.

The relief goods include DSWD relief packs, DOH family, hygiene and first aid kits, 300 sacks of rice from Aboitiz Power–AP Renewables Inc. Tiwi Geo, and other non-food items.

At around 8:00 AM, President Aquino boarded the F28 Presidential Plane and departed for Ormoc City, Leyte. Upon arrival at Ormoc Airport 45 minutes later, the President and his party immediately boarded the Bell 142 Presidential Helicopter and departed for St. Bernard Central School in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. At this leg of the trip, the President was joined by DND Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman, and OCD Administrator/NDRRMC Executive Officer Undersecretary Benito Ramos.

Upon their arrival at St. Bernard, the President and his party were welcomed by Southern Leyte Governor Damian Mercado, St. Bernard Mayor Rico Rentuza, Southern Leyte Representative Roger Mercado, 8th Infantry Division Commander MGen. Mario Chan, Police Regional Office 8 Commander P/CSupt Arnold Revilla.

The President and his party immediately proceeded to the St. Bernard Central School Principal's Office where they were briefed by Mayor Rico Rentuza on the status of Disaster Response Mechanism and St. Bernard's Intervention on Disaster Risk Reduction Management. Mayor Rentuza was immediately followed by OCD 8 Regional Director and RDRRMC 8 Chairman Angel Gaviola who delivered a report on the effects of the TECF on Eastern Visayas.

After the briefing, President Aquino proceeded to the St. Bernard Central School Main Building to lead the distribution of relief goods to the more than 200 evacuee families from Barangays Ma. Socorro, Malibago, and Himatagon who are temporarily seeking shelter at St. Bernard Central School.

St. Bernard Central School is one of the three major evacuation centers established in the Municipality of St. Bernard. The other two major evacuation centers are: Cristo Rey Regional High School with 66 families or 244 individuals, and the New Guinsaugon Elementary School with 215 families or 774 individuals. There are 18 evacuation centers in total, all housing more than 1,500 families or around 7,500 individuals.

In an informal interview with members of the media during the trip, President Aquino said he was very happy with the way the LGUs and other government agencies handled the crisis, “Sa akin ay heartening at saka nakakagalak ng puso. Kumikilos po lahat ng ahensiya ng gobyerno. Nabibigyan ng sapat na warning. Nababawasan natin ang casualties. Nababawasan natin iyong pinsala sa tao.”

At around 10:30 AM, the President boarded the Bell 412 Presidential Helicopter and departed for Ormoc. By 11:15 am, the President arrived at the Ormoc Airport where he directly proceeded to the Airport lounge for a formal press briefing, where the President discussed with the media the initial steps the National and the Local government are taking to address the problems encountered in the Province of Leyte and the Bicol Region. The President also discussed the issue of illegal logging and how it has aggravated the situation in the land-slide and flood prone areas: “There must be a long-term intervention to all this flooding,” President Aquino said. “I’m thinking of a total log ban everywhere in the country. By Monday, I’m hoping the executive order will be ready. That will drastically cut down the problem of illegal cutting of logs.”

After the briefing, President Aquino and his party boarded the F28 Presidential Plane and departed for Butuan City. The President had lunch on board the plane, en route.

The President arrived at Butuan City Airport at noon. He was received by Butuan City Mayor Ferdinand Amante Jr., Agusan del Norte Governor Eripe John Amante, Agusan del Norte District 1 Representative Jose Aquino II, 4th Infantry Division Commander MGen. Victor Felix, and Police Regional Office 13 Regional Director P/CSupt. Reynaldo Rafal.

He was ushered into the CAAP Office to attend a briefing prepared by OCD Director and RDRRMC 13 Chairman Blanche Gobeciong on the effects of the TECF in the CARAGA Region, after which, the President went outside to lead in the turn-over ceremonies of relief goods, medicines, and farm inputs to Agusan del Norte Governor Eripe John Amante, Agusan del Sur Governor Adolph Edward Plaza, Surigao del Norte Governor Sol Matugas, Surigao del Sur Governor Johnny Pimentel, and Butuan City Mayor Ferdinand Amante.

In an interview following the ceremonies, President Aquino again discussed the problem of illegal logging, mentioning plans for a more immediate moratorium on logging in the six flood-affected provinces, from which he had received reports of illegal logging. The President assured the media that the perpetrators will be punished once the investigations have finished. He also said that several officials of the DENR have been suspended and reassigned, while cases have been filed against several individuals.

Afterwards, he boarded the F28 Presidential Plane and departed for Manila. He arrived at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City about an hour later then proceeded to Bahay Pangarap.

The President's Day: January 15, 2011

President Aquino had no public events for today.

The President's Day: January 16, 2011

Today, President Aquino went to Cebu City to attend the culmination activities of Cebu's world-famous Sinulog Festival.

The President arrived at the Cebu City Sports Center at 10 AM, where he was welcomed by the warm cheers of thousands of Cebuanos and the local officials of the Province and the City of Cebu. The Cebu City Sports Center is where the Sinulog Grand Parade celebration, culminating the Sinulog Festival, was held.

During his speech, President Aquino said was amazed at the sea of people present at the festival, saying, "The atmosphere of the Sinulog cannot be compared with any other celebration. I am glad that the people here have preserved a valuable part of our tradition as Filipinos: you know how to throw a good party." He also praised the Cebuanos for their "inherent hospitality and lechon-making talent, you Cebuanos are one of the best at holding fiestas."

The President then took a more somber tone and asked those present to remember and pray for our fellow countrymen who are stricken by recent calamities caused by the Tail End of the Cold Front (TECF), "...let us pray for our countrymen in the Bicol, Visayas, and Mindanao regions who are coping with calamity. May Senyor Santo Niño protect our country from disasters and other challenges that will come our way..." The President likewise appealed for Cebuanos' help in rehabilitating the affected areas.

According to President Aquino, "The Sinulog Festival is ultimately a celebration of our values and beliefs. Along with that legacy came other values that have stood the test of time, which are important as we seize the momentum of reform, and rebuild our country. We are all still Filipinos—bound by our culture, by the sacrifices of our forefathers, and the collective aspiration to live up to their example. We celebrate together because we look back as one, and as one, we also dream. We embark on this collective journey to achieve our dreams guided by the very spirit of our faith: that we are stewards of our nation, and we are tasked to be our brother's keeper."

Shortly before noon, President Aquino left Cebu and flew back to Manila.

The President spent the rest of the day attending to the paperwork of his office.

The President's Day: January 17, 2011

At 10 AM, President Aquino received a farewell call from His Excellency Alistair McDonald at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hayy, Malacañan Palace. The Ambassador is set to conclude his tour-of-duty as Head of Delegation for the European Union on the 26th of January 2011.

Ambassador Alistair McDonald assumed his office as Head of Delegation of the European Union in November 2006. Since then, the EU Ambassador has worked hard and accomplished much in strengthening Philippine-European Union relations.

Ambassador McDonald was credited for the signing of the Philippines-EU Justice Support Programme (EPJUST), a financing agreement aimed at assisting PHL in addressing the problems of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances, as well as the signing of the €36-million Health Sector Policy Support Program (HSPSP) II, which is a continuation of the first HSPSP that ended in December 2010.

He also facilitated the EU's emergency humanitarian assistance for typhoon victims in 2009 and 2010, the most recent of which is the grant approved in late December 2010, amounting to €2.6 million (approximately P151 million) for the victims of Typhoon Megi, as well as the EU's humanitarian assistance for civilians affected by the armed conflict from August 2008 onwards in Mindanao, the most recent of which is the longer-term rehabilitation assistance worth €4 million (approximately P232 million), which was approved in late December 2010, for the remaining Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Central Mindanao.

President Aquino conferred the Order of Sikatuna, with the rank of Datu upon Ambassador McDonald in recognition of his significant contributions to strengthening relations between the Philippines and the European Union (EU).

At 10:30 AM, the President received a courtesy call from the members of the Swedish Social Democratic Party (Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti or SAP) at the Yellow Room, Premiere Guest House, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila.

The SAP is the oldest and largest political party in Sweden and is a member of Socialist International, the party of European Socialists and SAMAK.

The SAP party members are in the country as part of an on-going cooperation project between Akabayan Citizens' Action Party and the SAP, to familiarize the latter on the Philippine political system.

After the courtesy calls, President Aquino had a private lunch. He spent the rest of the day in a series of meetings at Bonifacio Hall, formerly called the Premiere Guest House.

The President's Day: January 18, 2011

The President Spent his morning in meetings with various officials.

At around 11:00 AM, President Aquino received the courtesy call of Mr. Simon Henry at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila.

Mr. Simon Henry is the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the oil company, Royal Dutch Shell. He is here in the country to discuss and assess investment plans and growth opportunities for the Shell Companies in the Philippines.

Also present at the meeting were DOE Secretary Rene Almendras, Department of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, and Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo.

At 11:30 AM, Metrobank Foundation, Inc. presented the President with a pledge of 10,000 food packs worth at least P10 million, which are meant to be distributed nationwide to the less fortunate, as well as to those affected by recent calamities.

The Metrobank Group is organizing a series of food distribution throughout the country from February 4 to 10, 2011 as part of its Chinese New Year celebration and in the tradition of Metrobank Group's way of celebrating events and milestones by giving back to the country.

Representing the Metrobank Group were, Metrobank Group Chairman Dr. George S. K. Ty, Metrobank Foundation, Inc. Advisory Board Chairman Former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Metrobank Chairman Dr. Antonio S. Abacan Jr., Metrobank President Arthur Ty, Metrobank Corporate Secretary Alfred Ty, Metrobank Foundation President Aniceto M. Sobrepeña, Metrobank Foundation Executive Director Nicanor Torres, GT Metro Foundation Program Officer Tanya Zaldarriaga, People's Republic of China Ambassador Liu Jianchao, and Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) President Alfonso Uy.

With the President representing the government of the Philippines was DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman.

At around noon, President Aquino held a Cabinet Meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of the Malacañan Palace, Manila. The President and his cabinet members had a brief lunch and resumed their meeting afterwards. At the meeting, they discussed the proposed 32 priority legislative agenda tackled in last week's Cabinet workshop. The meeting lasted for seven hours.

That evening, the President had a series of looked into state papers and briefing material in preparation for this week's events, including the 65th anniversary of the Liberal Party to be held the next day, January 19, 2011.

The President's Day: January 19, 2011

At 9:30 AM, President Aquino was at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan for the 65th Founding Anniversary of the Liberal Party. President Aquino is the concurrent Party Chairman and titular head of the Liberal Party.

The President administered the oaths of newly elected LP Officers, where incumbent party president Mar Roxas was re-elected as Liberal Party President.

In his speech, the President recalled the sequence of events that catapulted him into the race for the Presidency, “Dito rin mismo sa Club Filipino, halos isa’t kalahating taon na ang nakalilipas—ang pangulo ng ating partido, si Mar Roxas, ay nagbigay-daan at pinili ang pagkakaisa kaysa pagkakawatak-watak. Dito rin ako tumugon sa panawagan ng taumbayan, nang idineklara ko ang aking kandidatura.”

President Aquino told his partymates of the achievements of the party and his administration. He cited, in particular, the over \$2.4 billion in investment pledges he got from multinational companies like Hewlett-Packard, Pfizer, Coca-Cola, etc. this is aside from the almost \$5.5 billion investments pledges from Japan.

Replying to complaints against the price hike in the LRT/MRT fares and the NLEX/SLEX toll prices, the President said that the government and the taxpayers are subsidizing each MRT passenger with 60 pesos. The price changes are only there to allow the facility to pay for itself, and use government savings for other important areas.

He also thanked his partymates who are members of congress for passing the 2011 budget, funding the vital programs of government. He asked for their continued support in realizing the platforms of government he promised to the people.

President Aquino also reminded his partymates of what it means to be a liberal, “Ang Liberal, hindi napapako sa pangako. Ang Liberal, kapakanan ng bayan ang inuuna. Ang Liberal, hindi malilihis sa tuwid na landas ng tapat at malinis na panunungkulan...”

“... Iyan po ang ibig sabihin ng pagka-Liberal, mula pa ng panahon ng mga nagtaguyod nito, hanggang sa henerasyon ng aking ama, hanggang sa araw ng aking panunumpa, hanggang sa ngayong taumbayan na mismo ang nagpakita ng pakikiisa sa atin pong agenda. Iyan po ang kinakatawan ng lideratong inihalal natin ngayon.”

The President concluded his speech by saying, “Kinakausap ko po kayo ngayon hindi lamang bilang pangulo ng bansang minamahal nating lahat, ngunit mas lalo na, bilang isang kapartido. Nililinaw lang po natin iyan, dahil baka may nakikinig sa labas at sa kanilang mga telebisyon, baka may magbasa po nito sa diyaryo na hindi pa batid hanggang ngayon:“

“Ako, si Noynoy Aquino, ay isang Liberal. Karangalan ko pong mapabilang sa inyong hanay.”

After the program, the President and the Liberal Party held a press conference at the same venue.

During the press conference, President Aquino brought to fore the issues concerning the over-importation of rice and the apparent corruption happening in the NFA in the 2 years before his administration. He asked for help in fixing the NFA so it can fulfill its mandate properly.

He also said that he will study the calls to re-impose the death penalty, but cautioned against it saying that our Judicial System is not yet perfect. President Aquino also told the media that the government is looking into prioritizing only 12 bills or even less to ensure their swift enactment. Among those bills that will be certified as priority bills are those on the government owned and controlled corporations and on reproductive health.

The President also touched the issues regarding the debt woes of the Pagbilao Power Plant in Quezon Province, saying that it has to be settled soon as the plant provides almost 10 percent of the needs of the Luzon Power Grid.

Shortly before noon, President Aquino left for the Palace for a series of meetings with his staff and several officials of the Office of the President.

Later, at 7:00 in the evening, the President attended the Liberal Party Fellowship Dinner at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 20, 2011

This morning, President Aquino received a farewell call from Lao Ambassador Leuane Sombounkhan at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall. The Ambassador is set to conclude his tour of duty this month.

During the meeting, the President thanked Ambassador Sombounkhan for the Lao government's support for the candidature of Dr. Amaryllis Torres to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). He also mentioned that he is pleased with the continuing economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between the Philippines and Laos.

President Aquino, in behalf of the Filipino people, also conveyed his deep appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded by the Government and people of Laos to the more than 400 Filipinos working and staying in Laos.

Upon the end of the courtesy call, the President, together with DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo, conferred upon Ambassador Sombounkhan the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Datu (Gold Distinction) for his contributions in Philippines-Laos relations.

At 11 AM, President Aquino had a series of meetings with his staff, officials, and several advisers at the Yellow Room of the Premiere Guest House, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila. The meeting lasted until 1 pm in the afternoon. He had a private lunch.

At 1 PM, President Aquino received a courtesy call from the Balangay Expedition Team at the Yellow Room of the Premiere Guest House, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila.

Headed by team leader, former Transportation and Communication Undersecretary Arturo T. Valdez, the crew presented to the President two replicas and a scroll charting the route of the three boats from Butuan to the six countries in Asia.

The 40-member, 3-boat Balangay Expedition Team conducted a symbolic journey to retrace the journey of pre-Hispanic Filipinos as a seafaring and trading civilization. The voyage revives the Philippines' sea faring tradition as recorded in the 16th century Chronicles of Pigafetta.

The expedition first sailed throughout the archipelago and wherever it docked, it gave lectures in Philippine culture and history and urged the people to go back to their bayanihan spirit. Then the expedition also visited Brunei, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the waters of Vietnam where the crew also gave lectures on Philippine culture and history.

Other members of the team included Leo Oracion (the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest in May 2006); Erwin Emata (the second Filipino to reach the tip of Everest), Janet Belarmino (the youngest mother to reach the tip of Everest); Carina Dayondon (the second Filipina to reach the summit of Everest); Noelle Wenceslao (the first Filipina to reach the summit of Everest); Dr. Ted Esquerra (of the Philippine Coast Guard); Fred Jamili (member of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition); Voltaire Velasco (a doctor in environmental physics and the voyage's weather analyst); Lito Esperar and Mark Lim. It also has Badjao members.

The expedition sailed for 14 months and seven weeks or a total of 13,600 kilometers. The Balangay boats and their crew will leave for Mindanao Thursday night and rejoin their families.

At 1:30 PM, President Aquino went back to the President's Conference Room for another series of meetings, including a personal sit down with eight next of kin of those killed in the Maguindanao Massacre. The President assured them of his commitment to achieve justice for their loved ones, and implored them to give Atty. Sixto Brillantes—newly appointed COMELEC head—a chance to prove himself.

The appointment of Atty. Brillantes gained criticism from kin of the massacre victims for his stint as an election lawyer of the Ampatuans, who are the prime suspects for the massacre. The President had previously said that Brillantes would make a good COMELEC chair because his experience and expertise will help in preventing people from “gaming the system.”

This evening, President Aquino attended the 28th Anniversary Celebration of the Malaya Business Insight at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

Speaking before Malaya members and staff, President Aquino recalled the history of Malaya and its contributions to press freedom and the Filipino people.

“We are not just celebrating 28 years of Malaya today; we are celebrating freedom—the freedom of the people, and of the press, to be made aware of events that affect their lives. Today, we commemorate how Malaya, together with the Filipino people, chose to fight back and rebuild an ailing country.”

“The EDSA Revolution is proof of the media’s power and influence—how it can effect change in a society and expose those who have abused their positions. Media ultimately exists to guard our freedoms. Media asks the tough questions to our leaders, prompting them to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. And for that, we are grateful for your work.”

Ending his speech, the President asked Malaya and the media in general to continue to doing its job and to contribute to government’s efforts in nation-building.

“The Filipino people need and deserve an honest and transparent media—one that makes it easier for us all to work together and to achieve a high level of public discourse, which will, in the end, work for everyone’s benefit.”

“Gone are the days when the government could threaten and muzzle the media. Today, the only restraint on the media is itself. Media has been given the power to a large degree to self-regulate. Could we exercise that power more judiciously? Rest assured, I will continue to do my job and follow through on what I pledged to our people. At the same time, I am counting on you to remain the publication that our people can believe in. I also ask you to be fair—to me, yes, but more importantly, to the Filipino people.”

Also this evening, President Aquino was conferred Public Affairs Asia’s Gold Standard Award for Political Communications in recognition of his administration’s communications platform in promoting transparency and accountability in government. The awarding was held at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club, Hong Kong. Though the President was not able to accept the award in person, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda flew in to accept the award on the President’s behalf. Secretary Lacierda also brought a video message by the President Aquino, thanking Public Affairs Asia for the honor, and for affirming the strength of his message: *Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap*. “It is a message inspired by the Filipino people themselves, and on that basis, we are committed to serving the people and rebuilding our country,” said President Aquino in his message.

Public Affairs Asia is a network for senior government relations, public affairs and corporate communications professionals operating across the Asia Pacific region. It offers news, features, analysis and intelligence on practice and policy through *PublicAffairsAsia* magazine, online channels, intelligence and high-level events, roundtables and conferences.

The President won over Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew; Indian Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ambika Soni; British Prime Minister David Cameron; ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan; and Indonesian Politician Anas Urbaningrum. Last year’s recipient was Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia.

The President's Day: January 21, 2011

At 10 AM, President Aquino received a courtesy-call from the Far Eastern University Medical Alumni Association of Northern Illinois (FEUMAANI).

He received the party at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The group is in the country to undertake a two-month medical, surgical, dental, and optical mission in several far-flung areas around the country. They recently arrived from their first medical mission, which was a four-day trip in the the Province of Ilocos Norte.

The FEUMAANI, composed of 200 active Filipino alumni members from different medical specializations, have been conducting annual medical missions in the country for the last 6 years.

The group, headed by Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, are seeking the help from the President in addressing several red-tape issues that the group has encountered when applying for medical missions in the country.

After the courtesy call, the President had a private lunch.

He held a series meetings during the afternoon, which lasted until evening.

The President's Day: January 22, 2011

Today, the President attended the wedding of Wedding Reception of Shazlan Sufian and Zaireen Ayu Ibrahim at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati.

Zaireen Ayu Ibrahim is the daughter of the Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Dato Seri Ibrahim Saad, and Datin Seri Dato Zainab Abdul Kader.

Upon his arrival, the President was welcomed by Ambassador Ibrahim Saad and his wife, Datu Abang Sufian and his wife, and Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato Sri Anifah Haji Aman, who is also a guest-of-honor.

President Aquino was then ushered into the Manila Penn's Garcia Villa Room where he was introduced to the bride and groom, their family members, and other special guests, including His Highness Tengku Abdullah Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, the Crown Prince of the State of Pahang; His Highness Tengku Arif Bendahara, Brother of the Sultan of the State of Pahang and uncle of the Crown Prince and Spouse; Former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tun Musa Hitam and Spouse; Datuk Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; Foreign Affairs Secretary and Mrs. Alberto Romulo; Department of National Defense Secretary and Mrs. Voltaire Gazmin; and ARMM Governor and Mrs. Ansaruddin Alonto Adiong.

After the introductions, President Aquino proceeded to the Rigodon Ballroom where he participated in a short ceremony for the bride and groom.

Ambassador Ibrahim Saad then presented a "*Keris*" (ornamental Malay dagger) to President Aquino. Following Malay customary practice, the President then presented a coin to the Ambassador. The Malaysian Ambassador then reiterated the strong bonds of friendship between the Philippines and Malaysia, saying that he will remain committed in his endeavors to continue enhancing bilateral relations and regional cooperation between the two nations.

After the ceremonies, the President bid farewell to the newlyweds.

He detoured to Members Only in The Fort to attend the birthday celebration of Joseph Juico before retiring to Bahay Pangarap.

The President's Day: January 23, 2011

President Aquino has no public events for the day.

The President's Day: January 24, 2011

At 10 am, President Aquino received a Courtesy Call from Mr. Mark Loning at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall. Mr. Loning is the Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of the Federal Republic of Germany.

During the courtesy call, President Aquino and Commissioner Loning discussed various issues and proposed further cooperation on areas concerning human rights, which is highlighted by both countries' sponsorship of a resolution against human trafficking at the United Nations' Human Rights Council.

They discussed, among other things, the removal of the death penalty as a punishment in the Philippines under Republic Act No. 9346—the Philippines is signatory to the 2006 United Nations Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which strengthened its commitment to turn its back on capital punishment.

Commissioner Loning was accompanied by Ambassador Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch, German Ambassador to the Philippines; Ralph Timmerman, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila; and his Chief-of-Staff, Peter Kettner. Also in attendance were DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo, DOJ Secretary Leila De Lima, and DOTC Secretary Jose De Jesus.

After the courtesy call, President Aquino had a private lunch, which was followed by a series of at least six separate meetings that lasted until evening.

The President's Day: January 26, 2011

Today, at 11:30 am, President Aquino attended and delivered a keynote speech at the Biennial Conference of the International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas (ICUSTA) in conjunction with the 400th Anniversary of the University of Sto. Tomas. The conference was held at the University of St. Tomas Chapel, University of Sto. Tomas, Espana, Manila.

The ICUSTA, founded in 1993, is an international association of catholic institutions of higher learning that faithfully adhere to the ideas and teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Its main purpose is to encourage cooperation and collaboration and international understanding among its members fostering students and faculty exchanges through bilateral agreements.

In his speech, the President praised the ICUSTA for its “commitment to international diversity by instilling a love of and a passion for truth, while pursuing academic excellence and practicing a life of faith.” He also praised the University of Santo Tomas for its 400 years of giving quality education to Filipinos and for upholding “the traditions of excellence and integrity, known to many as the Thomasian spirit, which now resides in the hearts and minds of our leaders and professionals.”

President Aquino highlighted the significance of Christian education in the Philippines saying that “The formation of the human mind requires a curriculum that is not merely empirical, contingent, and relative, but one that is humanizing.”

The President also underscored the importance of education as “a vital tool for national development and social change” and one that “promote economic growth, alleviate poverty, and improve the quality of life of our people.”

The President ended his speech noting the mismatch between job openings and courses offered in the universities. He said that CHED is now looking into it by declaring “a temporary moratorium on the creation of new higher education institutions, or HEIs, and programs, particularly in the oversubscribed fields...” He added that CHED is also taking action by “forging greater ties between HEIs and employers, which will ease the burden of job hunting on new graduates.”

Immediately after the conference, at around 12 noon, President Aquino gave a quick press briefing at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church at the University of Santo Tomas.

The President briefed the media about the updates on the bus-bombing incident that happened along the Makati stretch of EDSA yesterday afternoon. Among the other issues tackled during the press briefing were investment pledges from foreign corporation, the Senate proposal for the registration of SIM cards, and the carjacking incidents.

After the press briefing, the President had a private lunch.

At 2:30 pm, President Aquino was at the New DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City to attend and give a keynote speech at the 60th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Speaking to the top officials and employees of the agency, President Aquino vowed strong support to the department saying that their programs like the Conditional Cash Transfer, Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), and the Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K) will get adequate government funding in order to reach more beneficiaries.

The Chief Executive stressed that funds for these programs against poverty would be used properly and with absolutely no wastage.

“Sisiguruhin din nating walang tagas ang ating bulsa: walang masasayang na pera, at ang tanging makikinabang sa bawat sentimo ay taumbayan lamang,” the President said.

President Aquino also cited the outstanding employees and stakeholders of the Department of Social Welfare and Development saying that this year's Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE), as well as the Pagkilala sa Natatanging Kontribusyon sa Bayan (PaNata Ko sa Bayan) awardees were prime examples of people and institutions who never thought twice about giving themselves selflessly in the service of their less fortunate countrymen.

"Allow me to greet the winners of the PaNata Awards which the DSWD recognizes as those individuals or groups who never thought twice about giving their time, effort, and themselves in assisting their less fortunate countrymen... We also heap praises on those who received the PRAISE Award, the employees who have shown utmost dedication to the service and who have become examples to others," the President said.

This year's eight PRAISE awardees are:

1. Eduardo Dalagan, Best Support Staff, Sub-Professional Category, Region X;
2. Loreta Anas, Best Support Staff, Professional Level, Region XI;
3. Lanuza, Best Technical Staff, Sub-Professional Category, Region V;
4. Nestor Estampa, Best Technical Staff, Professional Level, Region XI;
5. Aileen Cuevas, Social Welfare Officer III of Haven for Women, Field Office VII;
6. Rebecca Santamaria, Best Division Chief, Support Category, Region XI;
7. Primitivo Rufin, Best Division Chief, Technical Category, Region X;
8. and, Ester Versoza, Best Manager, DSWD Field Office XI Director.

This year's PaNata Ko sa Bayan awardees are:

In the International Partners/Donors category:

1. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
2. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
4. United Nations World Food Programme (UN-WFP)
5. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
6. Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional Para El Desarrollo (AECID)
7. New Zealand Aid (NZAID)

In the Local Donors category:

1. SM Foundation, Inc

2. Kabisig ng Kalahi, Inc.
3. Ronald McDonalds House Charities
4. Jollibee Foundation, Inc.
5. Petron Foundation
6. Tzu – Chi Foundation, Inc.
7. US Peace Corps

Hospicio De San Jose – Best Non-Government Organization

The President's Day: January 27, 2010

At 9:30 AM, President Aquino attended the 13th cycle of the Philippine Quality Awards (PQA). The ceremonies were held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The PQA is a national performance excellence program that recognizes achievements of public and private organizations in their journey toward performance excellence. Patterned after the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program of the United States, the PQA is the highest award that can be received by any Philippine organization. It sets the global standard to help our local organizations achieve world-class performance and serves as a template for competitiveness based on the principles of Total Quality Management.

With DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo, the President conferred various awards to the following companies: The Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management Award went to Mariwasa Siam Ceramics, Inc., (MSCI) and RCM Manufacturing Incorporated, for having planted seeds of quality and productivity and for starting to venture on a quality journey. While the Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management Award went to SunPower Philippines Manufacturing Limited for achieving significant progress in building sound processes.

After the awarding ceremonies, the President delivered a keynote speech wherein he praised the innate creativity of Filipinos, from past until present, and how the Filipinos have excelled both here and abroad. The President also noted how Filipino creativity “feeds progress” and how it plays a role in the continued development of the economy and the country.

He cited how a company called Coconet introduced the use of coconut coir instead of concrete to line roads and certain bodies of water to prevent flooding. “This will save us more than 3 billion pesos in road maintenance, while at the same time uplifting the lives of coconut farmers. And this came from our resourcefulness—a 3 billion peso idea.”

“It is because of companies like yours that Filipino workers receive the good reputation they deserve in the eyes of the world, and even in the eyes of some local businessmen. Yes, it is the Filipinos’ natural talent that attracts these investors, but your companies have harnessed their talents and have turned them into success—into proof of excellence,” the President added.

After the program, President Aquino had a private lunch followed by a series of meetings at the Premiere Guest House, which lasted until mid afternoon.

At 3 PM, President Aquino had a special meeting with the Ad Hoc Cabinet Cluster on Security regarding the Bus Bombing in Makati.

The agencies who presented at the meeting were the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), and the National Counter Terrorism Unit (NCTU).

The President's Day: January 28, 2011

This morning, President Aquino received a Courtesy Call from Jetstar Airways Executives at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Jetstar Airways, a subsidiary of Qantas Airlines, is an Australian low-cost airline operating an extensive domestic network as well as regional and international services from its main base in Melbourne, Australia.

At 10:30 AM, the President went Rizal Hall for the celebration of Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GOCC) Governance Day.

The highlight of the event was a turnover ceremony where President Aquino bore witness to 19 GOCCs as they remitted dividend checks totaling P29.255 billion to the National Treasury—thrice the amount GOCCs remitted during the administration of President Arroyo. Under the Dividends Law of 1994, GOCCs and GFIs are required to remit to the national government half of the income earned in each fiscal year

Speaking before a crowd that includes Senator Franklin Drilon, Senator Ralph Recto, Congressman Jun Abaya, Congressman Fabian, BSP Governor Tetangco, members of the Cabinet, and GOCC Executives, President Aquino reiterated that good governance is the cornerstone of his administration, and discussed the various reforms currently undertaken by the government to improve board governance and ensure transparency and accountability among GOCCs.

“We are now working under the broad light of day as a transparent, accountable government, worthy of the people’s trust,” the President said.

“Today should also be a very clear reminder that this money belongs, not to your Board of Directors, not to this administration, but to the Filipino people.” He said. “Sila ang boss ko. Sila ang boss ninyo. We must always remember that.”

After the program, President Aquino had a private lunch, followed by a series of meetings at Bonifacio Hall that lasted until evening.

The President's Day: January 29, 2011

The President has no public events for the day.

The President's Day: January 30, 2011

Today, President Aquino attended the K4 Philippines Intercessors' Convergence at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, wherein more than 10,000 members of the K4 Philippines Intercessors Movement gathered at the World Trade Center, Pasay City to offer their prayers for the nation.

K4 Philippines is a prayer movement initiated by Bishop Jonel Milan in Guiguinto, Bulacan on September 2002 through his local church Jesus Hope of Glory Community and his various network churches. It calls on all its members to offer the daily 4K-prayer concerns — **K**-alusugan (good health), **K**-aligtasan (protection), **K**-arunungan (wisdom) and **K**-atwiran (righteousness) – to the President and his cabinet secretaries (when one wakes up in the morning); Governors or its equivalent (before breakfast); Mayors (before lunch); and Barangay Chairmen (before supper) because they are entrusted with the position to take effect immediate transformation and contribute to nation-building.

The President's Day: January 31, 2011

At 10:00 a.m., the President administered the oath taking ceremonies of the government officials and the swearing in of the University of the Philippines' 20th President. Among the officials who took oath were Alfredo E. Pascual, 20th President of the University of the Philippines; Hernani B. Panganiban, Chairman, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and Alex Ayco, Member, Board of Directors, Philhealth, DOH.

Swearing in from the Office of the President were Ronald Llamas, Political Adviser; Elisea G. Gozun, Presidential Assistant II for Climate Change; Cattleya G. Amador, Assistant Secretary, Office of the Presidential Spokesperson, and William M. Varias, Assistant Secretary, CPLC.

Swearing in from the National Economic Development Authority were Gov. Joey S. Salceda, Chairperson, Albay – Region V, Regional Development Council; Fr. Leo V. Casas, Co-Chairperson; Gov. Victor A. Tanco, Sr., Chairperson, Capiz – Region VI, Regional Development Council; Ma. Luisa C. Segovia, Co-Chairperson; Arego J. Melisimo, Co-Chairperson, Negros Oriental-Region VII, Regional Development Council; Gov. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla, Chairperson, Leyte – Region VIII, Regional Development Council; Tiburcio A. Morales, Co-Chairperson; Mayor Evelyn T. Uy, Chairperson, Dipolog City – Region IX, Regional Development Council; Enrico V. Montano, Co-Chairperson; Vicente T. Lao, Co-Chairperson, Davao City-Region XI, Regional Development Council; Mayor Darlene Magnolia R. Antonino-Custodio, Chairperson, General Santos City- Region XII, Regional Development Council; Ramon Floresta, Co-Chairperson; Gov. Joel C. Baac, Chairperson, Kalinga – CAR, Regional Development Council; Dr. Virgilio C. Bautista, Co-Chairperson, and Ramon R. del Rosario, Member, representing the private sector LEDAC.

Swearing in from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System of the DPWH were Gerardo A.I. Esquivel, Acting Administrator and Ramon B. Alikpala, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

Swearing in from the Department of Foreign Affairs were Erlinda F. Basilio, Undersecretary for Policy; Rafael E. Seguis, Undersecretary for Administration, and Esteban B. Conejos, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs.

Swearing in from the North Luzon Railways Corporation of the DOTC were Jose Martin O. Aliling, Chairman & Member, Board of Directors and Daniel L. Henares, Member, Board of Directors.

Swearing in from the Department of Labor and Employment were Jose Martin O. Aliling, Chairman & Member, Board of Directors and Daniel L. Henares, Member, Board of Directors.

The President's Day: February 1, 2011

This morning, President Aquino received His Excellency Luis Arias Romero, the Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines, as the latter pays a Farewell Call at the Yellow Room of Bonifacio Hall.

Since 2007, Ambassador Romero has overseen the signing of 16 bilateral agreements on agro-industries, culture, education, environment, social, and tourism cooperation, among others. It was also through the Ambassador's active involvement that the promotion of Spanish language, culture, and trade were pushed in the country through the organization of cultural, fashion, and music festivals.

He also assisted the Philippine government, through constant coordination with Spanish officials, in the commutation of the death sentences of Filipino nationals Marilou Ranario and May Vecina in 2009, particularly through the intercession of King Juan 1st with the Emir of Kuwait.

The Spanish ambassador was also actively involved in priority undertakings during the Spanish Presidency of the European Union from January to June 2010. He was also facilitated the approval of Spanish Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects to several communities in the country.

For these exemplary efforts, the President conferred the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Bayani to the Spanish Ambassador in recognition of his contributions to our country and the strengthening of Philippines-Spain relations.

Ambassador Arias is set to leave the country on the 12th of February 2011.

At 10:30 AM, President Aquino met with the officials of his Communications team at the President's Private Office for their weekly meeting. The President had a private lunch afterwards.

At 1:30 PM, President Aquino met with Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn for a briefing on the Campaign for Puerto Princesa's Underground River to be named as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is the official nominee of the Philippines and finalist to the Search for the New 7 Wonders of Nature. It was declared to be now one of the 28 finalists from over 441 participants. It has also been cited as an example of best practices for biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism.

At the meeting, which was also attended by several cabinet members and several businessmen accompanying Mayor Hagedorn, President Aquino expressed his full support for the campaign.

After the meeting, President Aquino watched the House of Representatives hearings on the testimony of Ms. Heidi Mendoza. The President also monitored the hearings during breaks on his schedule throughout the day.

The President's Day: February 2, 2011

At 2 pm, President Aquino went to the City of Biñan in Laguna to attend the 1st Anniversary Celebration of Biñan's cityhood and the inauguration of the New City Hall–Annex Building.

During his term as a Senator and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Government, President Aquino sponsored R.A. 9740 also known as Charter City of Biñan, which was enacted into law on 30 October 2009.

Biñan's conversion into a city brought tremendous benefits to the booming town and helped cope with the increasing demands of its constituents. They project their income to increase to P1.1 billion and their Internal Revenue Allotment to increase to P384 million this year by reason of Biñan's conversion into a city.

Speaking before city and provincial leaders led by Mayor Marlyn Alonte-Naguiat and Governor Emilio Ramon Ejercito, President Aquino reiterated the importance of local government in governance, "...ang lokal na pamahalaan ang higit na nakakaalam sa mga pangangailangan ng kanyang komunidad. Kayo lamang ang maagap na makakatukoy sa mga suliranin na dapat bigyan ng agarang aksyon ng ating gobyerno..."

"Sa pagbubukas natin sa pinto ng bagong Biñan City Hall, naniniwala akong sabay na papasok ang panibagong sigla at tatag ng Lungsod ng Biñan, at ang mas marami pang puhunan at magagandang balita na magpapa-angat sa inyong siyudad." He added.

At 5:30 pm, the President attended the 111th Anniversary of the Manila Bulletin at the Penthouse of the Manila Bulletin Annex Building, Muralla corner Recoletos Streets, Intramuros, Manila.

Founded as the Daily Bulletin on February 2, 1900, the publication has grown into a comprehensive newspaper with weekly magazines, and has since expanded to include national tabloids, like Tempo and Balita, and other magazines in the regional dialects.

The President described the Manila Bulletin as "one of the most enduring journalistic institutions of the country," saying, "No publication has seen this country through five republics, and thus, your history has already become entwined with ours."

He commended the Manila Bulletin for giving our country's dialects the focus that they deserve as well as for helping "preserve the distinct culture and writing of our country's regions," and enumerated the publication's regional magazines like Liwayway, Bisaya, Bannawag, and Hiligaynon.

The President also emphasized, "Filipinos deserve a good, honest media—one that can fulfill its role in our collective responsibilities. I always make it a point to remind our friends in media to help elevate the level of rational discourse." And while I accept that there are certain things about my private life that will always be of interest to the public, it would be better if you give the same amount of attention to issues that matter as well."

President Aquino also vowed that "for the remaining years of my term, I would like to assure all of you that I will also continue doing my utmost best in fulfilling my responsibilities to this nation. I am here to make the lives of each and every Filipino easier—I am here to make your job easier."

"You have vowed to put "good news here," and I will personally partner with you and give you good, honest news to report, especially now that we have restored a transparent relationship with the people." He said.

The President's Day: February 3, 2011

At 10 am, President Aquino had a meeting with DOE Secretary Jose Rene Almendras regarding the Service Contract 72 at the President's Conference Room, Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila.

Service Contract 72, formerly called Geophysical Survey Exploration Contract 101, is a contract that was awarded to British company Forum Energy Plc to explore the gas-rich Sampaguita field in the South China Sea, near Palawan.

It has recently been reviewed by the Department of Energy to ensure that the deals were above board, in line with President's Aquino's agenda of transparency and accountability.

At 11:30 am, the President received a courtesy call from Stephen Mansfield at the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila.

Stephen Mansfield is a best-selling author and speaker that tackles religion, faith, and other social issues. He is here in the Philippines for a speaking engagement and a leadership seminar. He was accompanied by wife Beverly and some evangelical leaders of the Victory Church of the Philippines.

During the courtesy call Pastor Mansfield presented two of his best-selling books to the Chief Executive as gifts, namely, the "Pope Benedict XVI, His Life and Mission" and "The Faith of George W. Bush."

At 1 pm, the President witnessed the EDSA Anniversary Presentation and led the oath-taking ceremonies of the newly-appointed officials of the EDSA People Power Commission (EPPC) at the Executive Secretary's Conference Room, Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila.

The EDSA People Power Commission was created in 1999 by virtue of Executive Order No. 82 that seeks to institutionalize the legacy of the EDSA People Power Revolution. As an organization, the EPPC was established specifically to institute appropriate means, activities, and concerted actions that will enshrine EDSA People Power as a continuing and permanent source of inspiration for future generations.

Those who were sworn in were actor-singer-composer Ogie Alcasid, advertiser Emily Abrera, Christopher Carrion, Milagros Kilayko, former Trade Secretary Jose Pardo, and former Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) chairman Cesar Sarino.

At 4 pm, President Aquino proceeded to Patutan, Muntinlupa City to attend the inauguration of the First 100 Million Liters Per Day (Ml1d) Water Treatment Plant and Ground Breaking of the Second Plant.

The Putatan water treatment plant is the first facility to utilize the Laguna Lake as an alternative water source to Angat Dam. It is also the largest membrane-based facility in the country that uses large-scale microfiltration and reverse osmosis technology.

In his speech, the President stressed the importance of taking care of our watersheds and ensure the orderly and continuous supply of water to communities. He referred to the current project as proof that this advocacy continues to hold a significant importance in our national agenda.

He also thanked Maynilad for providing this vital resource to the people on Western and Eastern Metro Manila and for allocating almost P17 billion to improve the quality of the service it provides to MWSS and the people.

The President also announced the signing of the Executive Order No. 23, declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests and the creation of the anti-illegal logging task force.

The order tasks DENR to prohibit the issuing or renewing of tree-cutting permits in all natural and residual forests nationwide, and that any confiscated logs will be given to the Department of Education to be use for the building of classrooms and additional chairs and tables.

President Aquino ended his speech by calling out for conscientious use of water, responsible disposal of wastes, the regular planting of trees, and, more importantly, the active participation of everyone to ensure the fulfillment of our aspirations as a nation.

The President's Day: February 7, 2011

President Aquino was busy the entire morning attending to important state papers.

He had a private lunch before proceeding to the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila to receive a courtesy call from Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of the Archdiocese of Cebu, which was set at 1:30 pm in the afternoon.

At 2:30 pm, President Aquino had a meeting with DBM Secretary Florencio Abad and NHA General Manager Chito Cruz at the President's Conference Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila.

The President, Secretary Abad, and General Manager Cruz are discussing various issues concerning housing and urban development, particularly, with the proposed creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposal has been certified as a priority bill by President Aquino and thus will be presented to the members of Congress during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting to be held this month.

The President had a series of meetings with his personal staff and the communications group, which lasted until late in the afternoon.

The President's Day: February 8, 2011

Today is President Benigno S. Aquino III's Birthday. He was born on February 8, 1960. He is now 51 years old.

At 10:30 am, President Aquino went to the Land Transportation Office along East Avenue, Quezon City for the renewal of his driver's license.

The President underwent the standard procedure for renewing one's driver's license, starting with the submission of his application form then followed by a medical examination. Afterwards, he had his photo and specimen signature taken. In less than 10 minutes, the President was handed his newly renewed license, which will be valid for the next three years.

The President proceeded to the second floor of the Main LTO building for a closed-door meeting with LTO Chief Virginia Torres and other LTO Officials.

After the meeting, the President was given the traditional birthday greeting by officials and employees of the LTO, who sang him a birthday song.

He then left for Malacanan Palace for a Thanksgiving Mass.

At 12 noon, the President was at the Heroes Hall of the Malacanan Palace for a Thanksgiving Mass, which was offered by his family, friends, and co-workers in government for his 51st Birthday.

The President's sisters were the offerors: Viel Aquino-Dee for the lighted candles, Kris Aquino-Yap for the water and wine, Pinky Aquino-Abellada for the chalice and Balsy Aquino-Cruz for the ciborium.

Among the cabinet members present were PMS Director-General Julia Abad, DBM Secretary Florencio Abad, DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo, DOE Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, DOF Secretary Cesar Purisima, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles, and PCOO Secretary Herminio Coloma, Jr. Vice President Jejomar Binay, together with his wife Elenita and son Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Jun Jun" Binay also attended the thanksgiving mass

At 2:30 pm, the President went to the Medical and Dental Mission held at the Mendiola Parking Area of the Malacanan Palace Complex.

The event, in honor and celebration of President Aquino's 51st birthday, was attended by more than 2,200 indigents from 22 barangays inside the Malacanang area and 300 Office of the President officials and their immediate family members. Aside from the free medical and dental services, the DSWD also distributed gift packs to indigent members.

The medical and dental mission was organized by the Office of the President-Cultural Affairs Committee (OPCAC) and the Presidential Action Center (PACE), in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Presidential Security Group (PSG) and the Malacanang League of Barangays (Malbar).

At a brief press conference during the event, President expressed his shock to the manner of the death of former Chief-of-Staff and former DND Secretary Angelo Reyes, he likewise expressed his condolences to the family members the retired General.

At 6 pm, President Aquino proceeded to the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City to attend the Candle Lighting Ceremony, dubbed, "Ilaw ng Kapayapaan" or "Light of Peace," organized by the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process.

The candle lighting activity was organized to symbolically show the public that a number of people not only support peace, but more importantly, are making a stand for it. The lighting of candle symbolizes the support to the upcoming peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the National Democratic Front (NDF). The peace talks are scheduled on February 9-10 and 15-21, respectively.

The President also led the ringing of the Bell of Peace and the flying of the spirit lanterns.

In his speech, the President stressed the importance of the lighting of the candles saying, “Ang pag-ilaw natin ng mga kandila sa gabing ito ay simbolo ng ating pagkakaisa; simbolo ng nag-iisa nating hangarin na pag-alabin ang tunay na diwa ng kapayapaan.”

The President also called for every Filipino to take part in promoting peace, “...hinikayat ko na ho ang lahat na makiisa; makibahagi sa solusyon sa halip na dumagdag sa problema. Ang tanong lang po siguro ng ilan, paano nga ba ako makikibahagi sa solusyon? Sa akin pong palagay, simple lamang po: makibalita, magbantay at makilahok sa usaping pangkapayapaan.”

Ending his speech, the President expressed his optimism on the peace process. “Ngayon, liwanag na po ang gumagabay sa ating bayan sa pagtahak sa tuwid na landas; hindi na tayo lilihis pa. Sa pagsusulong ng peace panels tungo sa mapayapang pakikipag-ugnayan, tiwala akong makakamit natin ang ganap na katahimikan.”

The President's Day: February 9, 2011

Today, the President is scheduled to visit to Puerto Princesa City, Palawan for a series of activities highlighted by a visit to the world-famous Puerto Princesa Underground Subterranean River.

At 6:30 am, President Aquino departed Bahay Pangarap to start his scheduled tour. He arrived at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City at around 7 am, where he immediately departed through the Presidential Plane to Puerto Princesa City. Accompanying the President aboard the Presidential Plane were DOT Secretary Alberto Lim, PCDSPO Secretary Ramon Carandang, and incoming Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Ramon Jet Villarin.

They arrived at the Antonio Bautista Airbase, Puerto Princesa City at 8 am, where he was received by Palawan Governor Abraham Mitra, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban of WESCOM, BGen Esteban Castro of the 570th CTW, Commo. Edgardo Tamayo of NAVFORWEST, Capt. Alex Lopez of Task Force Malampaya, PCSupt Artemio Hicban Jr., PRO 4B, and around a thousand well wishers from various sectors of Puerto Princesa City.

He immediately departed for Sabang Beach in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan, Puerto Princesa City through the Presidential Helicopter and arrived 40 minutes later. Upon his arrival, the President and his party was received by Puerto Princesa Vice Mayor Lucilo Bayron, and together, departed for the nearby Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa, where they were then received by owners Ms. Jacqueline Tan and Resort Manager Ed Tongco. President Aquino and his party quickly changed into their beach attires at the resort.

At 9 pm the President proceeded to Sabang Port where they took a motorized Banca to the staging area of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. They arrived at the staging area at around 9:30 am where he and his party donned life vests and hard hats to start the Underground River Tour.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP), formerly St. Paul Subterranean National Park, is reputed to be the longest navigable underground river in the world at a length of 8.2 km that winds through spectacular limestone formation before emptying out into the South China Sea.

In 1999, it was declared as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Natural World Heritage Site. Then in 2003, it was also proclaimed a "National Geological Monument" by the National Committee on Geological Sciences.

The PPSRNP is managed by the City Government of Puerto Princesa based on a program centered on environmental conservation and sustainable development, through a multi-sectoral Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). It has the distinction of being the first national park devolved and successfully managed by a Local Government Unit.

Before starting his tour, the President quickly shot a video message promoting the Underground River. The PPSRNP is the official nominee of the Philippines and a finalist to the search for the New 7 Wonders of Nature, with 27 other sites contending for the title.

The New 7 Wonders of Nature is a competition organized by the Swiss-based New7Wonders Foundation (a government-controlled corporation), led by the Canadian-Swiss Bernard Weber. The competition started in 2007 to choose seven (7) symbols of nature via global polling. It started immediately after the successful campaign to elect the man-made official New 7 Wonders of the World, in which more than 100 million votes were cast.

At the tour, the President was clearly amazed with Underground River and at the limestone formations in the underground cave river system. He and his party had their picture taken at the huge cathedral area of the underground river. The tour lasted for around 45 minutes.

By 11 am, the President's tour ended. He then took a motorized banca to Sabang Port after which he proceeded to the Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa.

At 11:35 am, President Aquino quickly changed his clothes and proceeded to the South Sea Restaurant and Bar of the Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa to have lunch and a series meeting.

At the meeting, the President listened to a presentation on the Potential Effects of Climate Change by Dr. Wilfredo Roehl "Al" Licuanan, the Resident Expert on Coral Reef and Marine Science of the De La Salle University. A Confirmation of Puerto Princesa City as the First Carbon Neutral City in the Philippines and within the ASEAN by Fr. Ramon Villarin, Incoming President of the Ateneo De Manila University, and a Cultural Presentation by the SINIKA/ Pangkat Kalinangan.

After the lunch-meeting, at around 1:15 pm, the President proceeded to the Sabang Port and boarded the Presidential Helicopter to start a scheduled Aerial Inspection with Mayor Ed Hagedorn and Fr. Ramon Villarin.

Together, they viewed Puerto Princesa City's environmentally compliant projects, such as the First Sanitary Landfill, as well as the denuded forest cover over the Municipality of Narra in Southern Palawan caused by illegal logging and irresponsible mining..

By 2:15 pm, the President and his party arrived at the Antonio Bautista Airbase, where he immediately proceeded to the Holding Room of the 570th Tactical Operations Wing at the airbase to meet with the widow and family of Dr. Gerardo Ortega.

The late Dr. Gerardo "Gerry" Ortega is a private practitioner Veterinary Doctor, businessman, mining activist and broadcast journalist (commentator of RM Radio Network), was shot in the head last January 24, 2011 at around 10:39 AM at Bgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

After the meeting, at 2:45 pm, the President boarded the Presidential Jet and went back to Metro Manila. He arrived a little more than an hour later, at around 3:55 pm, at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City. By 4:25 pm, President Aquino was back at Bahay Pangarap, Malacanan Palace Complex.

Despite the long and tiring trip at Puerto Princesa City earlier, the President watched and monitored the match of the Philippine Azkals vs. Mongolia on television for the 2012 Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup prequalifying match.

The President was delighted that the Philippine Azkals won and rushed to make a statement congratulating the Philippine Soccer Team and thanking them for bringing pride and honor to Filipinos the world over.

The President's Day: February 10, 2011

At 10 am, President Aquino was at the National Security Council Building, Presidential Security Group Compound, Malacañan Park to lead the Inauguration of the Presidential Situation Room (PSR).

The Presidential Situation Room was created on 17 September 2010 by virtue of Administrative Order (AO) No. 2, the Presidential Situation Room (PSR) to provide the President seamless access to timely, adequate, and accurate information on events as well as analysis of information or situational awareness on issues affecting national security.

Upon his arrival, the President led the unveiling of the marker together with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, NSC Secretary Cesar Garcia, PMS Secretary Julia Andrea Abad and Col. Ramon Mateo Dizon of the PSG to signal the opening of Presidential Situation Room.

Speaking before those present, the President said that, "In times of national crisis, the PSR will be the nerve center of the government's response, centralizing information flows and assisting in the coordination of the different agencies tasked to deal with crises."

"I have no doubt that in the years to come this place, and the people who work in it everyday will be tested. I also have no doubt that as we deal with threats to our country's security, this place and the people working here will deliver. I thank you all for the work you have already done, and the work that still lies ahead. Our people are counting on us. And with your help, we will rise to whatever challenges lay ahead," he added.

The President then witnessed a presentation of the National Security Council's Vision for the PSR through a demonstration on the proposed electronic interconnectivity with relevant departments and agencies using the latest technology.

Later, at 11:30 am, President Aquino received Mr. Nobumasa Kemon, President of the Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. (SMM) for the latter's Courtesy Call at the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex, Manila.

The Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd., is one of the biggest and oldest mining companies in Japan and one of the principal partners of Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC) in the Taganito HPAL Project.

The project is a big undertaking that would require an investment of USD 1.3 billion in its First Phase alone and it is projected to generate gross revenues of USD 380 million per year during this phase. It is also expected to generate employment for more than 4,000 persons during construction and around 1,000 persons during the operations. The commercial operation is expected to commence in 2013.

At the meeting, Mr. Sumitomo was accompanied by Mr. Nobumasa Kemori, President of Sumitomo Metal Mining, Mr. Takeshi Kubota, Director of Sumitomo Metal Mining, Mr. Naoyuki Tsuchida, Managing Executive Officer of Sumitomo Metal Mining, Mr. Takanori Fujimura, President of THPAL Nickel Corp., Mr. Manuel Zamora, Chairman of Nickel Asia, Mr. Gerard Brimo, President of Nickel Asia and Atty. Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., Independent Director of Nickel Asia.

Accompanying the President were DENR Secretary Ramon Paje, DOF Secretary Cesar Purisima, and DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo.

After the meeting, the President had a private lunch before proceeding to the Ceremonial Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement Fourth Phase of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

By 2:30 pm, President Aquino arrived at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of the Malacanan Palace to witness the Ceremonial Signing and Presentation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the 4Ps between the DSWD and the Local Government Units (LGUs).

The President witnessed the signing of the MOA on 4Ps between the DSWD, as represented by Secretary Soliman, and the Local Government Units, as represented by League of Provinces of the Philippines President Governor Alfonso Umali, and League of Cities of the Philippines President Mayor Oscar Rodriguez. The MOA provides for the respective obligations of DSWD and the LGU for the efficient and effective implementation of the 4Ps. The document was later presented to the President in a simple ceremony.

Three other documents presented to the President during the event: namely the Revised Joint Memorandum Circular on Pantawid Pamilya specifying the role and responsibilities of each partner agency to ensure availability of supply on health and education; the signed Administrative Order on Project RN-HEALS (Registered Nurses for Health Enhancement and Local Service) which will employ 10,000 registered nurses who will undergo learning and development during their one year deployment to 4Ps areas; and the signed Department Order declaring January 29, 2011 as early registration day for SY 2011-2012.

Speaking before a crowd composed of House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Senator Franklin Drilon, National Government Officials, and 281 Municipal and City Chief Executives, the President reiterated the importance of the program saying, “ang CCT ay hindi isang limos. Sa halip, ito ay isang bagong simula para sa mga maralita nating kababayan, upang tuluyan na silang makaahon sa kahirapan.”

Referring to the local executives present, the President stressed the importance of their participation, “Nagtitiwala akong kayong mga naririto ay magiging bahagi ng solusyon at hindi ng problema, upang ang mahigit dalawang milyong benepisyaryo ng CCT ay magagabayan at mabibigyang-lakas. Sa inyong pakikiisa, higit pa nating mapagkakalooban ng sapat na serbisyong pangkalusugan at pasilidad ang mga benepisyaryo ng 4Ps.”

At 4:15 pm, the President received Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) President and CEO Hiroshi Watanabe at the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacanan Palace Complex for the latter’s courtesy call to discuss further expansion of their program to the country.

Mr. Sumio Ishikawa, Chief Representative JBIC Manila Office and Mr. Toshifumi Kazaoka, Representative JBIC Manila office, accompanied Mr. Watanabe while NEDA Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr., DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo, DOF Secretary Cesar Purisima accompanied President Aquino.

At 5:30pm, President Aquino received the Philippine Azkals Football Team at the Lobby Area of the Bonifacio Hall at the Malacanan Palace Complex.

The President congratulated the Philippine Azkals for winning the first leg of their pre-qualifier match against the Mongolia Blue Wolves with a score of 2-0 in the 2011 AFC Challenge Cup held at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City.

The Azkals presented to the President a jacket which he gamely wore, wishing them “more success and for being a role model for the youth.”

In a statement right after the Azkals won their game against Mongolia last Wednesday night, the President congratulated the Azkals for the two game-winning goals which, he said, “showcased both Filipino creativity and hard work.”

“Your two goals showcased both Filipino creativity and the hard work you put in to master your sport. We look forward to cheering you on toward more triumphs,” he added.

The Azkals will face the Mongolians again on March 15 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

President's Month in Review: February 11-28, 2011

President's Month in Review: March 1-7, 2011

The President's Day: March 8, 2011

The President's Day

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 (Jakarta is one hour behind Manila)

9:15 AM March 8, 2011 – (10:15 AM March 8, 2011, Manila Time)

The President attends a Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Kalibata National Cemetery. It has been a practice in Indonesia for Heads of State who are on official visit to the country to place wreaths at the Kalibata National Cemetery. The Kalibata National Heroes Cemetery (a.k.a. Taman Makam Pahlawan Kalibata, TMP Kalibata) is a military cemetery located in Kalibata, South Jakarta, Indonesia. More than 7,000 military casualties and veterans from the Indonesian War of Independence were buried here along with World War II veterans of the Imperial Japanese Army who stayed in the Dutch colony and fought for Indonesian independence. The cemetery was established in 1953 as the final resting place for some of Indonesia's national heroes.

10:00 AM March 8, 2011 – (11:00 AM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President is honored with the traditional Welcome Ceremony for visiting Heads of State at the Istana Merdeka, the official residence of the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

10:20 AM March 8, 2011 – (11:20 AM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President pays a courtesy call on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (*su-si-lo bam-bang yud-ho-yo-no*). The meeting will provide an opportunity for the two Presidents to establish rapport and discuss sensitive matters concerning Philippines-Indonesia bilateral relations.

10:40 AM March 8, 2011 – (11:40 AM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President meets with President Yudhoyono for a bilateral meeting. The meeting will allow the Philippine and Indonesian Presidents to discuss national and regional matters of mutual concern and other outstanding issues on Philippine-Indonesia bilateral relations. Possible topics of discussion are Indonesia's Chairmanship of the ASEAN for 2011, the Mindanao Peace Process, the resumption of talks on the maritime boundary delimitation between the Philippines and Indonesia, the mutual support for candidatures and regional issues.

11:25 AM March 8, 2011 – (12:25 PM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President witnesses the signing of two new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on basic education and sports cooperation; and the renewal of one MOU on transnational crime.

11:35 AM March 8, 2011 – (12:35 PM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President holds a joint press briefing with President Yudhoyono at the Credentials Hall of the Istana Merdeka.

3:00 PM March 8, 2011 – (4:00 PM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President visits the Pelita Harapan University where he will be conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Law. Established in 1994 by Pelita Harapan Foundation, the Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH) offers graduate and undergraduate academic programs based on Christian principles. Escalating student enrollment shaped UPH into a multi-cultural campus, with students from more than 10 diverse nations, including the United States, Russia, China, Korea, and Germany. Learning is supported by one of the best instructor/student ratios in Indonesia. In 2007, the

Indonesian Directorate General of Higher Education nominated UPH as one of the 50 best universities in Indonesia. In April 2008, Globe Asia magazine ranked UPH as the #1 Private University in Indonesia. **(TO BE CONFIRMED)**

5:30 PM March 8, 2011 – (6:30 PM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President meets with the Filipino community in Indonesia. The meeting will give the President the opportunity to introduce his Administration, inform the Filipino Community of the policies and thrusts of his government and touch base with the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Indonesia. There will be approximately 300 members of the Filipino Community in attendance.

8:00 PM March 8, 2011 – (9:00 PM March 8, 2011 Manila Time)

The President attends the State Banquet hosted by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The State Banquet is part of the courtesy provided by the Indonesian Government to visiting Heads of State. The State Banquet is an opportunity for the President and members of the Philippine Delegation to interact with President Yudhoyono and members of the Indonesian Delegation.

The President's Day: March 9, 2011

8:00 AM

The President meets with Indonesian businessmen to promote investment opportunities in the country in areas of renewable energy, agriculture, tourism infrastructure, sustainable mining, ship building and repair, and garments and textiles, among others.

The President is also expected to promote the **public-private partnership projects** where an initial batch of five (5) projects are for roll out in the 1st half of 2011 and were launched on 07 March 2011. These projects are the

- (1) MRT Line 3 Expansion Program-Privatization of Operation and Maintenance;
- (2) LRT Line 1-Privatization of Operation and Maintenance;
- (3) Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Expressway Phase II;
- (4) DaangHari-South Luzon Expressway Link Road Project; and
- (5) NLEX-SLEX Connector Project.

12:25 PM

The President leaves Grand Hyatt for Soekarno-Hatta International Airport where he will be given send-off party by the Philippine Embassy officials and some Indonesian officials.

The President is scheduled to depart for Singapore at 1:20 PM.

4:25 PM

The President arrives at Singapore Changi International Airport to be welcomed by Singapore Chief of Protocol Ambassador Lim Cheng Hoe and officials of the Philippine Embassy headed by Ambassador Minda Cruz.

5:25 PM

The President arrives at Changi Water Reclamation Plant, one of Singapore's five high-grade water treatment plants. These water treatment plants treat and purify water, and then produces high reclaimed water. These water-treatment plants enabled Singapore to overcome its water supply shortage.

The technology of reclaiming water may have practical applications for the Philippines in areas where water supply is unreliable at best, such as mountainous regions like Baguio City and islands with insufficient freshwater sources, such as Cebu.

7:00 PM

Upon the recommendation of the Philippine Embassy, the President will meet with some 300 Filipino OFWs.

The meeting between the President and members of the Filipino Community in Singapore will allow the Filipino Community to meet the President, for the first time during his presidency, and give the President the opportunity to touch base with the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Singapore. Singapore is one of the President's overseas bailiwick. He resoundingly won in the overseas absentee vote count for the 2010 National and Local Elections.

8:30 PM

The President will tour Singapore's *Resorts World Sentosa*, a 49-hectare leisure and gaming company and the biggest Integrated Resort in Singapore.

The President's Day: March 10, 2011

9:00 AM

The President attends a roundtable meeting with Singaporean investors to discuss the latter's investment plans in the Philippines. The attendees are from various sectors such as real estate, telecommunications, investments, and healthcare.

11:15 AM

The President attends the State Visit Welcome Ceremonies. This is an opportunity for the President to interact with Singaporean dignitaries.

11:30 AM

The President pays a courtesy call on Singaporean President Sellapan Ramanathan. This provides an opportunity for the two Presidents to establish rapport.

President Nathan is a long-time friend and supporter of the Philippines. He holds in high esteem the Filipinos and the Philippines, and has always expressed his best wishes for the country.

12:00 NN

The Prime Minister of Singaporean Lee HsienLoong pays a courtesy call on the President. This is an opportunity for the two leaders to build rapport and discuss bilateral and regional issues of concern of the two countries.

12:30 PM

The President attends a lunch hosted by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee HsienLoong.

2:30 PM

The President tours the defense manufacturing facility Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd. (ST Kinetics).

ST Kinetics is one of the region's largest land systems and specialty vehicles companies, with a growing portfolio of products and services for the defense, homeland security and commercial markets. The Singapore Armed Forces is the largest defense customer of ST Kinetics. The company also holds a number of subsidiaries overseas, mainly in the US, Canada, and China.

4:00 PM

The President attends an orchid-naming ceremony at the National Orchid Garden at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The National Orchid Garden was inaugurated in October 1995 by then Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew. It comprises three hectares of carefully landscaped grounds in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, and is home to over 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids of orchids, with about 600 species and hybrids on display.

Many visiting dignitaries have been honored with the privilege of having new orchid crossbreeds named in their honor. The late President Corazon C. Aquino was accorded this tribute.

7:00 PM

The President attends a State Banquet hosted by Singaporean President Sellapan Ramanathan. The State Banquet is part of the courtesy provided by the Singaporean Government to visiting Heads of State. The State Banquet is also an opportunity for the President to interact with Singaporean dignitaries.

President's Month in Review: March 11-21, 2011

President's Month in Review: March 21-30, 2011

The President's Day: April 4, 2011

This morning, the President presided over the oath taking ceremony of new officials in the Rizal Ceremonial Hall in Malacañang Palace. Thirty-two new members of his administration took their oaths of office for their respective positions.

Right after the ceremony, President Aquino entertained questions from the media. In the press conference, he reiterated his administration's position on the termination of Deputy-Ombudsman Emilio Gonzales, which has yet to take effect because of the Deputy Ombudsman's right to make an appeal. The President stated that Deputy-Ombudsman Gonzales "has an entitlement to have a motion for reconsideration filed, so we will wait for the process. There is a deadline, and, if so warranted, then we will enforce the law." He also answered questions pertaining to the ongoing crises in Maguindanao and Augusan del Sur. The President assured the public that he and his government are monitoring the situations closely. At the end of the briefing the President discussed and the status of his fuel subsidy program, which aims to ease the petrol problem that the nation has been facing.

Later that morning, the President granted an audience to a delegation from the Royal Norwegian Government headed by Honorable Ture Lundh. The other members of the delegation included Honorable Knut Erik Solem, Ambassador of the Norwegian Embassy in the Philippines, Senior Adviser Aina Holm, and Adviser Ida Marstein. The Norwegian government has been assisting the Philippine Government to further negotiations between the administration and the CPP/NPA/NDF. The Royal Norwegian Government has served as a third party facilitator between the Philippines and the CPP/NPA/NDF since 2001 until the breakdown of the talks in 2004.

At the end of his day, the President attended a weekly meeting with his advisers in order to discuss current issues and policies.

The President's Day: April 5, 2011

The President spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: April, 6, 2011

The President spent his morning attending meetings and presentations by different departments of the Executive branch.

The main public agenda for the day was witnessing the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Budget Management and the following organizations: the Philippine Judges Association, the Metropolitan and City Judges Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Trial Justice League, Inc., and the Retired Judges Association of the Philippines. This memorandum of agreement plans to augment the salaries of the members of the judiciary in order to lessen the disparity, in terms of compensation, between them and the Executive branch. It also aims to respond to the demands of the Supreme Court for the reimbursement of Special Allowance for the Judiciary that had been reduced in years 2007 to 2010. During his speech during this event, the President said “Gaya nga po sa ipinangako natin, kung may nakikitang mali, kailangang ituwid.” (Like what I promised before, if we witness anything wrong; we need to correct it) referring to the disparity of wages in the government and his campaign promise of correcting the mistakes of the previous administration. He went on to urge his audience that his administration cannot be the only one to strive for this goal in which he reiterated that “mahalaga po ang pagkakaisa ng ating adhikain para sa tapat at patas na sistemang pangkatarungan sa ating bansa. Tandaan ninyong anumang uri ng kaso ang inyong hawak, may mga taong naapektuhan sa inyong mga desisyon. Kaya naman umaasa akong patuloy ninyong pangangalagaan ang Saligang Batas, at mananatili kayong kakampi ng lipunan sa paghahatid ng walang-pinapanigang hustisya at katarungan para sa lahat.” (Unity is very important in achieving an honest and impartial justice system in this country. Remember that, in any case that you handle, there are people who are affected by your decision. I am hoping that you will continue to safeguard the constitution and continue siding with the people when administering unbiased and fair justice for all.)

President Aquino ended his discourse by reminding everyone that “Lahat ng kilos po natin, hindi natin maituturing na, kumbaga sa lupain, ay isla—walang nadadamay. Lahat po nito, damay-damay tayo.” (Our actions can never be considered isolated, where no one gets affected. Everything that that we do, we do as one together.)

The President then entertained questions from the media about immerging issues of the previous days. The most important issue that he discussed was the recently concluded Agusan hostage crisis. He said he was glad the hostages were unharmed, and praised the crisis management committee for their active role in defusing the situation. President Aquino also commented on the rising oil prices saying that he and his advisers are exploring every possible solution to the ongoing problem. He further commented that his administration wants a long-term solution to this dilemma and not a simple stopgap measure that would increase his popularity among the people.

The President's Day: April 7, 2011

Today the President spoke during the inauguration of the new Rustan's Wing of the refurbished Paco Market in Manila.

During his remarks, President Aquino said the opening was in line with his administration's first priority: the creation of jobs, not just in the Paco market but also for the country in general.

He thanked the investors present, including the President of the Rustan Group of Companies Zenaida R. Tantoco, for continuing to support the Public-Private Partnership initiative of the new administration. "Alam ko pong madaling maging manhid," said the President. "Pero pinili ninyong tulungan ang mga Pilipino" (for the solidarity that the businessmen have showed. I know that it is easy to be apathetic. But you chose to help the Filipino people)

The restoration of Paco Market not only increases business revenue for the area but—as the area's condition has been degrading since the time of the market's creation—also addressed the environmental problem by starting initiatives to clear the surrounding areas of trash and pollution.

The President specifically thanked the efforts of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation headed by Ms. Gina Lopez, who was present.

"The most impressive thing about Ms. Lopez is not her professional achievements or her educational background," said the President. "It is that she chose to dedicate her life to service instead of just sitting back and living the comfortable life that was unquestionably within her reach. I would also like to point out that this advocacy of hers actually extends further than rehabilitating the Pasig River. It is about giving our children a more promising future."

The chief executive reminded those in attendance that the dream of an honest government is within reach and they should trust that his administration will not let them fall behind in progress. "Kayo rin po, ang karaniwang Pilipino, ang kusang magbabalik ng ating pambansang dangal." (You, the common Filipino, are the ones who are going to restore the dignity of the country.) he said, addressing the crowd.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino took a courtesy call from a group from CITRA in his offices at the Place. The CITRA group is an infrastructure company engaged in expressway development and toll road operations.

The President's Day: April 8, 2011

Today, the President flew to Pangasinan—first to Bgy. Tumana, Rosales, in order to attend the inauguration of the improved Agno River flood forecasting and warning system as well as the new Agno River Flood Forecasting and Warning Center; then to Urdaneta for the inauguration of its new engineered sanitary landfill.

Delivering his remarks at Rosales, President Aquino emphasized how important it is for the government to be prepared for calamities: “Hindi po natin hahayaang masanay na lamang ang Pilipino sa kawalan ng pag-asa; hindi natin hahayaang tanggapin na lamang ng taumbayan na bahagi na ng reyalidad sa ating lipunan ang kawalan ng kahandaan at solusyon sa mga problemang kinakaharap natin.” (We will not let the Filipino people grow accustomed to hopelessness. We will not let our people accept that unpreparedness and the lack of solutions to our problems is simply a part of our reality.)

President Aquino also said that the newly inaugurated structure is testament and proof that the government is now serious about the welfare of its citizens. “Bahagi ito ng mandato natin sa bawat Pilipino sa pagdating sa kaunlaran, walang maiiwan.” (This is part of our mandate to the people: when progress comes, no one gets left behind.)

He thanked the Japanese Government for their role in making this project a reality. According to the President, the continued cooperation of the Filipino and Japanese peoples even in the face of disaster shows “that humanity and compassion extend farther than geographic and cultural borders.”

In the afternoon, President Aquino delivered a second speech in Urdaneta City for the inauguration of the new landfill. In attendance was Hon. Amadeo Gregorio E. Perez IV, City Mayor of Urdaneta City, whom the president thanked for volunteering the city as part of the province's solution to waste management. Furthermore, the President said the landfill may turn something unwanted, like garbage, into something that will benefit the community—as even though this project carries with it some grizzly connotations, it will bring livelihood and progress to Urdaneta City. He wrapped up his discourse by encouraging his audience to join him in his fight for change, because “walang ibang mag-aambag sa katuparan nito kundi tayo ring mga Pilipino. Asahan po ninyong mananatili kaming tapat sa aming mandato; hindang-hindi po lilihis sa masukal at liku-likong direksyon ang pamahalaan ninyo. Gagabayan kami ng inyong pagtitiwala at malasakit sa bayan. At umaasa kaming kasama namin kayo sa pagbabayanihan tungo sa tuwid na landas ng kaunlaran.” (No one else will contribute to the fulfillment of change in our country but its people. You can rest assured that we will remain true to our mandate; your government will not stray from this path. We will be guided by your trust and sympathy for the nation. We also hope that you are with us in this crusade for the straight path to progress.)

The President's Day: April 9, 2011

Today the country celebrates the bravery of the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The President attended the celebration commemorating Araw ng Kagitingan held in Mount Samat Shrine, Pilar, Bataan. In attendance were, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo S. L. Oban, United States Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr., Japanese Ambassador Makoto Katsura, and war veterans of World War II.

"There are the named, and there are the nameless. Today we gather to pay tribute to our unsung heroes." the President said during his speech. He paid homage to the unknown men and women who perished in the different wars of the nation.

"Hindi po natin maaabot ang demokrasyang tinatamasa natin ngayon kung hindi nanindigan ang iba pang magigiting nating kababayan na sumuong sa digmaan: sila na hinarap ang mga kanyon at baril ng mga mananakop, sila na nagtiis sa pagmartsa ng humigit-kumulang isandaang kilometro matapos bumagsak ang Bataan, sila na ang tanging layunin ay ang makamit ang kalayaan para sa bayan," (we will not be able to reach the democracy that we have today if not for the steadfast beliefs of our brave countrymen that fought during the war: they who faced the canons and guns of foreign oppressors, they who endured the 100 kilometer march after the fall of Bataan, they who's sole aim is to gain freedom for the nation.)

President Aquino honored the generation of Filipinos who have endured World War II saying that younger generations have a lot to learn from our veterans.

"We would do well to emulate the spirit of service that they exhibited, especially now that we are facing new foes: corruption and poverty," said the President. "Our triumph in this new battle is hinged on whether or not we can display the same bravery our heroes displayed back then. To all of our people: The strength of this country is in our hands. Let us learn to fulfill our collective responsibility. Let us show our veterans that their sacrifices have not gone to waste."

It has been 66 years since the end of World War II and there have been numerous strides toward peace between the countries that were at war. President Aquino praised the friendship and "long history of cooperation and mutual defense" that immersed among the Philippines, the United States, and Japan. He said he is confident that they will stand by the country should there be a threat again to our security and sovereignty, and that they support the path that we have taken toward transparency and progress.

The President's Day: April 10, 2011

The President had no public events for this day.

The President's Day: April 11, 2011

Today, President Aquino attended the 10th Student Catholic Action of the Philippines (SCAP) National Leadership Conference held at St. Paul.

The SCAP, founded by Columban Father Edward J. McCarthy in 1936, is a campus-based organization dedicated to the formation socially aware, responsible, efficient and effective, involved and committed youth and student Christian leaders who will work for social transformation

Currently, the SCAP is headed by their executive director Ms. Teresita E. Nitorreda. Also in attendance were SCAP executive secretary Mr. Loreto S. San Juan and SCAP chaplain Bishop Rolando J. Tria Tirona, OCD, DD.

The President delivered an address in front of the student leaders, encouraging them to take up in their youth the culture of selflessness that would be for the benefit of the majority. President Aquino

“Kung babalik tayo na parati na lang, ‘Ano ba ‘yung sa akin?’ as opposed to ‘Ano ba ‘yung magagawa ko para sa kapwa ko?’ ay talagang walang mangyayari sa atin po, said President Aquino” (if we always ask ‘what’s in it for me?’ as opposed to ‘what can I do for my fellow man?’ then nothing will ever become of us.). The chief executive nevertheless lauded the organization’s advocacy, saying that “spiritual formation that produces the Christian leaders who will work for social transformation” is essential to nation building.

Most of the people who attended the ceremony were members of the youth, being that SCAP is a student organization. The President ended his speech by encouraging the youth of today to actively join his fight for change. He appealed to them saying “Kayo talaga naman ang pag-asa ng kinabukasan, pero kayo rin ang puwedeng maging solusyon ng kasalukuyan.” (You are the hope of the future. But you can also be the solution to today’s problems.)

Later on in the day the President met with his advisers.

The President's Day: April 17, 2011

Today marks the 100th commencement exercise of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, since its inception in 1902. President Benigno S. Aquino III was invited to deliver the commencement address in front of the graduates of the class of 2011.

The event was attended by the current President of the University of the Philippines (UP) Mr. Alfredo E. Pascual, Chancellor of UP Diliman Dr. Caesar A. Saloma, and other distinguished alumni of the university.

As part of the ceremonies, the President was also awarded a Doctor of Laws degree by the University President. The honor has been given to all Philippine Presidents starting with President Emilio Aguinaldo, but with the exceptions of President Joseph Ejercito-Estrada and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The Honoris Causa that President Aquino received was given to acknowledge his achievement of rising to the highest post in the land and his service to the country and his fellow Filipinos.

At the beginning of his speech, the President shared an anecdote about his father's pride as an alumnus of the University of the Philippines and his reaction to daughter Ballsy's decision to follow his footsteps:

Tatay ko na nga po ang minsang nagsabi: Iisa lang talaga ang pamantasan sa Pilipinas—UP lang raw po, wala nang iba. Bata pa po kami ng aking mga kapatid, iyan na ang bukambibig ng aking ama. Hetong nga po ang isang kuwento:

Tinanong ng tatay ko ang panganay naming si Ballsy: “Saan mo gustong mag-aral, iha?” nang siya'y papasok sa kolehiyo.

Ang sagot, “Dad, gusto kong sundan ang mga yapak mo. Gusto ko sa UP.”

Sagot ng tatay ko: “Maganda ‘yan.” At pagkatapos po, paglabas po ng aking ate sa kuwarto, kinausap agad ng aking tatay ang aking ina: “I-enroll mo na ‘yan sa Assumption.”

He said it was natural for the Senator to feel worried about his eldest daughter since “matagal nang nakakabit sa UP ang imahen nito bilang pugad ng kanlungan ng mga malayang isip.”

President Aquino said that his father was a principled man, and UP held a large part in shaping him. Ninoy Aquino, said the President, could have stayed in exile in Boston living the good life with his family. Instead the late senator chose to return to the Philippines in service of his countrymen, at the risk of death. President Aquino took cue from his father's sacrifice and has dedicated himself to making sure the sacrifice was not in vain, and thus to the pursuit of solutions to the country's troubles: “Kung hindi ako magiging bahagi ng solusyon, parang walang-kuwenta na rin siguro ang buhay ko.”

President Aquino also took the opportunity to reiterate his position on responsible parenthood, which he has been pushing for even before being elected as president, the principles of which he is urging Congress to make into law: “Buo ang loob ko na maisabatas ang prinsipyo ng Responsible Parenthood. Mulat ako na may mga tutol dito. Subalit obligasyon ko bilang pinuno na lumapit sa lahat ng sektor, para kausapin at magpaliwanag sa kanila nang mahinahon, kahit pa ang sabi ng iba'y dapat i-excommunicate na ako. Kailangan po nating pakinggan maski na ang mga taong sa pananaw ng marami ay sarado na ang isipan. Pero sa huli, kailangan kong magdesisyon. Kailangan ko pa ring sundin ang aking kunsensiya. Kailangan kong gawin ang tama.”

The President's Day: April 18, 2011

This morning, President Aquino was paid a courtesy call by Nils Smedegaard Andersen, CEO of AP Moller Maersk Group* and Danish Ambassador Svend Waever at the Bonifacio Hall Yellow Room. With them were Maersk Line Asia Pacific Chief Executive Officer Thomas Riber Knudsen, Maersk Global Service Centres (Philippines) Limited Managing Director Ms. Kristina Beckendorf and Trade and Industry Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya.

Afterwards, Japanese Ambassador Makoto Katsura paid a farewell call on the President. President Aquino, in turn, conferred to him *The Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Datu (Gold Distinction)*,* pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 236.

Ambassador Katsura has rendered outstanding service to the country. During his tenure, Filipino – Japanese relations was elevated to a “strategic partnership between two close neighbors”: The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) was entered into force in December 2008; Japan has consistently ranked as the country's top development partner and the largest source for Official Development Assistance (ODA); to date, the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) has funded 50 projects in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. Ambassador Katsura is now helping in laying the ground for a possible Official Visit by the President to Japan in late 2011.

Also in attendance were Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Consul General Motohiko Kato, and Minister Hotoshi Ozawa.

In the afternoon, the president conducted a meeting with his advisers. Thereafter, he signed Proclamation No. 150 declaring Saturday, April 23, 2011, as a special (non-working) day throughout the country. Proclamation No. 150 was released the same day.

Notes:

**The AP Moller-Maersk owns one of the world's largest shipping companies and is involved in energy, logistics, retail and manufacturing industries. It operates in approximately 130 countries with a workforce of around 108,000.*

** The distinction is granted to individuals who have rendered exceptional and meritorious services to the Republic of the Philippines, upon diplomats, officials and nationals of foreign states who have rendered conspicuous services in fostering, developing and strengthening relations between their country and the Philippines, or upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), both in the Home Office and in the Foreign Service. (Section 5.II, Executive Order No. 236).*

The President's Day: April 25, 2011

Today, the President had lunch with United States (US) Senator Daniel Inouye and Thad Cochran in the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace.

Senators Inouye and Crochan were conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu and the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Grand Officer, respectively, for their strong advocacies for Philippine-American relations, e.g., assistance to Filipino World War II veterans and sponsorship of the Save our Industries (SAVE) Act (a bill that will grant duty-free perks on Philippine garment exports processed from US-made fabrics and reduce tariffs on those that use US-made yarns).

Also, in attendance were US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Senate President Juan Ponce-Enrile, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, and Senator Inouye's wife Irene.

Later in the evening, President Aquino delivered a speech at the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) 75th anniversary celebration held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

According to the President, one of the biggest challenges in paving the road to a better Philippines was to start the "budgetary process afresh, to do away with outmoded or irrelevant budgetary assumptions." He lauded the DBM's effort in doing so. Through the leadership of Secretary Abad, the department successfully started and is continuing to implement the zero-based budget (its concept, "using clear performance- based guidelines, taking the people's money out of projects that don't work and putting it into projects that do"), reaping its rewards and gracing sectors of society in the process. The President expressed his bliss with the way budgetary matters are being handled to benefit the administration's campaign for a clean government.

In attendance were Secretaries Sonny Coloma, Babes Singson, Alberto Lim, Ivan Uy, Enrique Ona, Solicitor General Joel Cadiz, Undersecretaries Mario Relampagos, Laura Pascua, Evelyn Guerrero, Secretaries Diokno, Carague, Neri, and Alba.

The President's Day: April 26, 2011

Today, the President was paid three courtesy calls; first was by Reverend John Chadwick Hammond, the Associate Director for Asian Affairs of the Billy Graham Evangelical Association (BGEA)* and Bishop Jonel Milan of the Bicol Celebration of Hope – National Advisory Council (BCH-NAC)*, second, by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation* and Mr. Carson Harte, Executive Director of Cambodia Trust*, and third, by the Officials of the Building Bridges Leadership Journey (BBLJ) Program*.

In the BGEA courtesy call, the President welcomed his guests and expressed appreciation for the organization's endeavors of bringing encouragement and help to the Bicol Region.

He was then prayed over for divine help and guidance.

In attendance were BGEA's Rev. William Graham IV, Dr. Thomas K. Philips, Rev. John Chadwick Hammond, and Mr. Derek Lee Forbes; BCH-NAC's Bishop Jonel Mlan, Bishop Efraim Tendero, Pastor Eduardo Pilapil, Dr. Andrew Luison, and Mr. James Tioco.

During the second call, the Nippon Foundation and Cambodia Trust projects were reiterated. Nippon Foundation and Cambodia Trust will establish the Philippine School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (PSPO) at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc (UERMMMCI). The PSPO will be the first of its kind in the Philippines and only 12th in the world. It aims to provide service and research on the fabrication, development, and clinical application of high technology low cost mobility devices for persons with disability (PWD).

Furthermore, Mr. Sasakawa restated his two promises before the unfortunate incident in his homeland; financial educational grants for the PSPO and an unconditional lifetime commitment for the two bar exam blast victims, Raissa Laurel and Joann Ledda, in terms of their artificial limbs and mobility needs.

In the meeting were Mr. Sasakawa's interpreter Ms. Kanae Hirano, and Dr. Josephine R. Bundoc, Course Director, PSPO Coordinator, Walking Free Philippine Missions.

And last, in the President's Conference Room, the President acclaimed the BBLJ Program for its vital role in forming future leaders that will be essential for the country's development and the Administration's aim for participative governance and capacity building.

The Building Bridges Leadership Journey Program is a voluntary and joint program of the Philippine members of the Senior Fellows of the New York-based Synergos* and the GPC. The program provides the country's young leaders with the knowledge and expertise of Synergos* in optimizing people's unique influence and leadership potential for the common good.

Notes:

** The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) was founded by Dr. William Franklin "Billy" Graham II in 1950. The Headquarters of the Association is located at Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. It has international offices in Canada, Australia, Great Britain and Germany, and field offices in more than 20 developing countries. Since 1950, the BGEA is chaired by Dr. Billy Graham, who is considered as the Chaplain to the U.S. Presidency.*

** The Bicol Celebration of Hope with Rev. Will Graham IV was birthed out of the disaster of typhoon Reming in 2006 to help bring encouragement to the people of Bicol through spiritual care, personal development training and worldwide exposure, among others.*

** The Nippon Foundation was founded by Ryoichi Sasakawa (1899-1995) in 1962. It is a non-profit philanthropic organization that gives special focus to the development and protection of the world's maritime and marine*

resources. The foundation's fundamental aim is the realization of a peaceful and prosperous global society, in which no one needs to struggle to secure his basic human rights.

** The Cambodia Trust is a United Kingdom-registered charity, established in 1989 by Stan Windass, John Pedler and Dr. Peter Carey. It was created to respond to the call of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen for assistance to address the plight of the thousands of landmine survivors in Cambodia during that time. It is an organization that is recognized in the field of prosthetics and orthotics. The Cambodia Trust works with disadvantaged disabled people to enable them to participate as equals in education, employment and community life. Cambodia Trust aims to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency, through rehabilitation, community work, training and advocacy.*

** Synergos comes from the Greek root which means "working together". Synergos Institute aims to address global poverty and social injustice by changing the systems that keep people in poverty through collaborative work among government, business, civil society and poor/marginalized communities.*

The President's Day: April 27, 2011

President Aquino started his day with a trip to Kawit, Cavite to attend the inauguration of the 7 km R-1 Extension Project of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project (MCTEP),* the segment of the 11.24 km R-1 Expressway Extension that connects the R-1 Expressway at Zapote, Las Piñas City to Kawit, Cavite.

The President delivered a speech stressing the importance of quality roads because they link separate areas and make travelling faster and more convenient this will result in better tourism, delivery of goods, business opportunities and a chance for residents in the area that work in Manila to come home to their families. He continued by assuring of the government's full support for the project.

After the inauguration, the President returned to Manila to attend meetings with his advisers.

Notes:

** The Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project (MCTEP) is a joint venture between the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) and UEM-Mara Philippines Corporation (UMPC). It links the R1 Expressway Extension to Noveleta, Cavite and to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) via the C-5 Link Expressway.*

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The President delivered a speech stressing the importance of quality roads for they link separate areas and make travelling faster and more convenient resulting to better tourism, delivery of goods, business opportunities and a chance for residents in the area that work in Manila to come home to their families instead of renting an apartment near their workplace. He continued by assuring the government's full support for the project.

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Notes:

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The President's Day: April 28, 2011

This morning, President Aquino attended a meeting with the head of the Pasig River Reclamation Commission, Ms. Gina Lopez.

In a Press Briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that Ms. Gina Lopez shared the President a presentation regarding her opposition to mining in Palawan because of the damage it might do to the area's rich biodiversity. The President took note and is currently reviewing mining policies in the country.

Later on, the President was paid a courtesy call by Sultan Ibrahim Ismail of Johor, Malaysia. There was a no agenda for the meeting, just a friendly visit that was continued during dinner.

The relationship between the President and Sultan Ibrahim dates back from when President's Aquino's father, Ninoy, was still alive. The Sultan assisted Senator Ninoy Aquino to the Malaysian border during his stay in Singapore on August 1983. The late Senator Aquino was said to be close friends with Sultan Ibrahim's father.

The President's Day: April 28, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a meeting with the head of the Pasig River Reclamation Commission Gina Lopez at Malacañan Palace.

In a press briefing held at the Palace, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda discussed that Gina Lopez provided a presentation regarding her opposition with mining in Palawan because of the areas rich biodiversity. The President took note and is currently reviewing mining policies in the country.

The meeting was followed by a courtesy call by Sultan Ibrahim Ismail of Johor, Malaysia. There was a no agenda for the meeting, just a friendly visit that was continued during dinner.

The relationship between the President and Sultan Ibrahim dated back from when President's Aquino's father, the late Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., was still alive. The Sultan assisted Senator Aquino to the Malaysian border during his stay in Singapore in August 1983. Senator Aquino was said to be close friends with Sultan Ibrahim's father.

The President's Day: April 29, 2011

Today marks a significant event in the President's fight against corruption. At around 10:30 in the morning, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez visited the Palace to personally hand her resignation to the President. It will be effective on May 6, 2011.

In a press briefing held at three in the afternoon in Malacañan Palace, President Aquino expressed his acclaim, stating that "her action has spared the country from a long and divisive impeachment process that would have distracted our lawmakers from dealing with the many problems we face today."

He thanked the House of Representatives and urged the Judicial and Bar Council to begin searching for a new Ombudsman.

"We can now proceed more decisively in making government officials more accountable to their bosses, the Filipino People," said President Aquino.

Also during the day flooded with publicity for England's Royal Wedding and Ombudswoman Gutierrez's sudden resignation, the President was paid a courtesy call by the Officials of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB).*

President Aquino welcomed them in the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall and expressed his gratitude for the institution's trust in the Philippine Banking System. He congratulated them for being the longest operating foreign bank in the Philippines.

In the meeting were Group Executive Director and Asia CEO Jaspal Singh Bindra, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade and Industry Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya and SCB Philippines CEO Mahendra Gursahani.

In the afternoon, President Aquino received Thai Ambassador-Designate Prasas Prasasvinitchai in the Malacañan Music Room to accept the Ambassador's credentials. During the meeting, Ambassador Prasasvinitchai conveyed that, in his tenure, he would do his best to further the relationship between the Philippines and Thailand.

After, the President transferred to the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall to accommodate GMA 7's anchor and host Arnold Clavio, for an interview for the show TONIGHT WITH ARNOLD CLAVIO* – ANG PANGULO EPISODE.

The President capped the night with more engagements with his advisers.

Notes

** Standard Chartered Bank PLC provides personal and business banking services in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, UK, Europe and the United States. It is listed in the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges and ranks among the top 20 companies in the FTSE-100 in terms of market capitalization.*

** TONIGHT WITH ARNOLD CLAVIO is a 30-minute talk show hosted by veteran journalist and one of the pillars of GMA News and Public Affairs, Arnold "Igan" Clavio. The talk show features a wide variety of topics and personalities — from politics to current events, national issues to show business.*

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He thanked the House of Representatives and urged the Judicial and Bar Council to begin searching for the new Ombudsman.

Finally, in the President's words, “we can now proceed more decisively in making government officials more accountable to their bosses, the Filipino People.”

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The President's Day: April 30, 2011

Today was the Beatification of Pope John Paul II took place in Vatican City in central Rome.

The President, in the morning, attended the Dedication Ceremony of Brianna Aideen Dy Quillo, the second child of Maj. Mark Anthony P. Quillo [JADC] and Mrs. Maida D. Quillo, at the President Grand Palace Restaurant, Ongpin St., Binondo, Manila.

A Baby Dedication is a Christian ceremony in which the parents and godparents make a commitment before the Lord to raise the child according to God's Word and ways. Its counterpart in the Catholic Church is the Sacrament of Baptism.

Through the ceremony, President Aquino became Brianna Aideen's Godparent.

In the afternoon, Atty. Jesus "Chito" Ayala's* urn was brought to the Serendra Garden in the Ateneo de Manila High School, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. President Aquino arrived to condole with the bereaved family. He also presented a posthumous award upon Ayala with Ambassador Miguel Perez Rubio, Chief Protocol, Presidential Protocol, reading the citation. The award was presented to Mrs. Fe Ayala, Atty. Ayala's wife, and to their children.

Later that evening, the President received news that his party mate, Calbayog City Mayor Reynaldo Uy, was slain. Details of the incident are still being gathered.

Notes:

**Atty. Jesus V. Ayala was the Chairman of the Regional Development Council (RDC) XI from 1986 to 2007. He was a member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of the Philippines and was the Presidential Adviser in Mindanao. Atty. Ayala also initiated the formation of the Regional Development Task Force in Southern Mindanao. He died on April 19, 2011 due to pneumonia.*

The President's Day: May 1, 2011

Today, the country observes Labor Day.

In a Labor Day Breakfast in the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace, President Aquino accommodated 150 different labor group representatives to discuss the myriad of issues the different groups are facing.

In his speech, the President assured the representatives of the Government's dedication in addressing the dilemmas of the labor force. He urged that quarterly engagements (instead of meeting only during the 1st of May) that will involve the employer's sector and other Government agencies be set to discuss better labor policies and position the labor force in sync with the global scene.

He continued by urging his audience to view their new government in a positive light:

“Marahil po, nakasanayan na natin na ang Araw ng Manggagawa ay nagiging araw ng ‘di tuwirang pagsasalita, o ng bolahan. Isang araw tayong paliliguan ng pa-poging numero ng pamahalaan, habang buong taon naman nila tayong tatalikuran.

“Ibahin po ninyo ang inyong bagong administrasyon: Hindi bukambibig ang good news namin, at hindi ito nakakulong sa kung anong numero na itinutumpeta pero hindi naman po isinasagawa.”

The President then stated that the administration is doing everything it can especially in terms of budget. Though lacking in funds, the government is abundant with sensible minds that would wisely allocate the funds to maximize their use and/or come up with programs that could ease conditions in terms of crisis (e.g. creating the Panawid Pasahe Program during the period of oil price increase).

President Aquino averred the measures the government has taken to ensure the creation of jobs, such as deploying nurses to areas in need of the service and thus addressing the problem of the overabundance of nurses in the country.

He further stressed that the reason for the gathering was to find solutions to labor predicaments. He urged everyone to be part of creating a better Philippines:

“Paulit-ulit ko pong hinihimok ang sambayanan: Makilahok po tayo at huwag lamang makialam. Umambag tayo sa solusyon. Mag-usap tayo nang matino nang sa wakas ay mahawi na natin ang mga barikada at makapagtrabaho pa tayong lahat nang matiwasay.

“Mayroon na po kayong administrasyong kumikilala sa mga manggagawa. Mayroon na kayong pamahalaang mulat na hindi lang kayo basta mga numero sa kapisang pila ng papel; hindi kayo mga titik lamang sa makakapal na dokumentong inaamag naman sa mesa. Kinikilala namin ang pagod at hirap ng bawat manggagawang Pinoy: magsasaka man o mangingisda, drayber o call center agent, nagpundar ng puhunan o nagsisilbi sa taumbayan. Ngayon pong Araw ng Manggagawa, may pamahalaan po kayong may ginagawa: makabuluhan, mapagmalasakit, at tunay na nakakaramdam.”

The President's Day: May 2, 2011

Today marks a significant event in world history. United States (US) President Barack Obama announced that Osama Bin Laden is dead.

In a statement responding to the US President's announcement, President Aquino said that Bin Laden's death has "brought justice to over a dozen Filipinos who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center."

He further declared that the incident should not turn our guards loose. He urged everyone to "remain vigilant and united in pursuing peace, pluralism, and collective efforts at security."

The President, together with the national security team, will continue to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the Filipino people.

Also during the day, President Aquino attended a briefing on the 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia which he will be attending on May 7 to 8, 2011. He will be joining nine other heads of state in the region to strengthen relationships and to further dialogue for solutions affecting the region and the world.

The President's Day: May 3, 2011

Today, the President graced the Rizal Ceremonial Hall for the Oath taking of new appointed Government officials.

The President spent the rest of his day attending meetings and briefings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: May 4, 2011

In the morning the President attended meetings and worked on State papers.

Later in the afternoon, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams paid President Aquino a farewell call in the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall.

After three years as Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Adams leaves for Greece to serve the same position.

Present during the meeting were Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, Monsignors Giorgio Chezza and Gabor Pinter, and Fr. Rolando Garcia.

The President's Day: May 5, 2011

In the morning, President Aquino flew to Calbayog and Cebu City to pay his final respects to Mayor Reynaldo Uy and Vice Governor Gregorio Sanchez, Jr., respectively.

In the afternoon, the President flew back to Manila to attend the closing ceremonies of the 32nd National Conference of Employers (NCE) of the Employer's Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) held in the Marriott Hotel in Pasay. He delivered a speech assuring the organization of the government's measures in creating "an environment where business can thrive." He declared instances of surges in the trust of business investors and expressed his optimism and confidence in the country's economic scene and fiscal management.

He acknowledged the private sector as the main driver of economic growth. He understood their concern brought about by the President's Labor Day dialogue with the Labor Sector and assured them that the measures taken would not be harmful to the organization's interest. The government is merely doing its role; to balance competing concerns between management and labor.

He further urged everyone to realize that "as Filipinos, we all want to reach the same destination—a Philippines under the guidance of daylight, where no one is left behind, and where we can all work toward prosperity together."

Thereafter, President Aquino spent the rest of the working day meeting with his advisers.

The President's Day: May 6, 2011

5:00 PM May 6, 2011 – (Manila Time) The President, together with his official delegation, departed for Jakarta, Indonesia via Special Aircraft (Bombardier Challenger 850) at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. The President delivered a statement before he left.

In his statement, he stressed the importance of gaining the support of the neighboring countries in South-East Asia. He declared that there would be a dialogue concerning strategies against matters harmful to the country and its citizens such as drug trafficking, piracy, and environmental pollution.

Overall, President Aquino declared that the agenda for the trip was clear: to send the message that the Philippines is ready to provide support in any way the country can for the spirit of bayanihan is the principle that upholds ASEAN.

8:00 PM May 6, 2011 – (9:00 PM May 6, 2011 Manila Time) The President arrived at the Halim Perdanakusuma Military Airbase in Jakarta. This airport was the city's main airport until the opening of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang in 1985. It is now home to a large number of turboprop, charter and general aviation companies. It is also a major air force base of the Indonesian Air Force and is home to most of its major squadrons. This airport is now used for military, private and presidential purposes only.

8:10 PM May 6, 2011 – (9:10 PM May 6, 2011 Manila Time) The President departed the Airbase for the Four Seasons Hotel.

8:50 PM May 6, 2011 – (9:50 PM May 6, 2011 Manila Time) The President arrived at the Four Seasons Hotel and retired for the night.

The President's Day: May 7, 2011

08:20 AM May 7, 2011 – (9:20 AM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President left Four Seasons Hotel for Jakarta Convention Center to attend the 18th ASEAN Summit.

09:00 AM May 7, 2011 – (10:00 AM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The ASEAN Summit Plenary started. The event, which lasted for an hour, provided the Heads of State an avenue to exchange views on the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and Roadmap for an ASEAN Community; and the implementation of the Master Plan on Connectivity.

10:45 AM May 7, 2011– (11:45 AM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President held a bilateral meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva whose goals include encouraging Thailand to further expand bilateral trade and investments through the Public-Private Partnership Program (PPP).

11:00 AM May 7, 2011– (12:00 NN May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the resumption of the Plenary Session of the 18th ASEAN Summit.

12:15 PM May 7, 2011– (1:15 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended luncheon of ASEAN Heads of State hosted by Indonesian President and ASEAN Chair, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

02:00 PM May 7, 2011– (3:00 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President joined the ASEAN Leader's Meeting with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Representatives or AIPA. AIPA is an entity associated with ASEAN whose mission is to significantly contribute to the attainment of the goals and aspirations of ASEAN through inter-parliamentary cooperation. This meeting provided AIPA the opportunity to inform ASEAN Leaders of their work such as their essential role in educating the peoples of the ASEAN on the ASEAN Charter and in promoting an ASEAN identity.

03:00 PM May 7, 2011– (4:00 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the ASEAN Leader's informal meeting with Youth Representatives aimed at providing an opportunity for the ASEAN Youth to update the Leaders on their achievements and activities which contributed to the promotion of ASEAN ideas and values.

03:45 PM May 7, 2011– (4:45 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President joined the ASEAN Leader's Informal Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Representatives which provided opportunity for the latter to validate their engagement in the ASEAN as an important element in creating a more people-oriented ASEAN Community by 2015.

These CSOs that have a formal link with the ASEAN are non-profit associations which promote, strengthen, and help realize the aims and objectives of ASEAN cooperation in the political, economic, social cultural, scientific, medical, and technological fields. They also function as advocates on issues such as human rights, interfaith dialogues, and climate change which are significant to the ASEAN.

04:20 PM May 7, 2011– (5:20 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President held a Bilateral Meeting with Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong.

04:40 PM May 7, 2011 – (5:40 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President held a Bilateral Meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen where the President conveyed our country's interest to strengthen its cooperation with the Cambodian Government in encouraging and facilitating trade and investments, and cooperation, especially in agriculture and tourism.

05:00 PM May 7, 2011– (6:00 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President was paid a courtesy call by the ASEAN Secretary –General Surin Pitsuwan.

07:00 PM May 7, 2011– (8:00 PM May 7, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the dinner hosted by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his spouse together with other Heads of State and ASEAN leaders.

The President's Day: May 8, 2011

8:20 AM May 8, 2011 – (9:20 AM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President departed Four Seasons Hotel for the Jakarta Convention Center.

8:30 AM May 8, 2011 – (9:30 AM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President arrived at the Jakarta Convention Center.

9:00 AM May 8, 2011 – (10:00 AM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the 18th ASEAN Summit-Retreat. The leaders of the ASEAN were expected to exchange views on topics which may include ASEAN External Relations, ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations, International and Regional Issues, Maritime Security, and Public-Private Partnership in the Philippines. This meeting provided the President with the opportunity to pursue Philippine interests and introduce Philippine initiatives.

1:00 PM May 8, 2011 – (2:00 PM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the ASEAN Heads of State/Government Luncheon. This provided the President with the opportunity to network and develop closer ties with the other ASEAN Leaders. Indosia, being the ASEAN Chair, hosted the luncheon. There were no formal discussions during this event.

2:30 PM May 8, 2011 – (3:30 PM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan for a bilateral meeting. The meeting allowed the Vietnamese Prime Minister and the Philippine President to discuss the Philippine position on the South China Sea, as well as discuss possible cooperative ventures with Vietnam on the South China Sea.

2:45 PM May 8, 2011 – (3:45 PM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the 18th ASEAN Summit Concluding Session. There were no formal discussions during this event. The President congratulated the Chair and expressed his appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for the participation of the Philippines.

3:45 PM May 8, 2011 – (4:45 PM May 8, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the 7th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)* Summit held in the Cendrawasih I, Jakarta Convention Center. President Aquino chaired the event. In his opening statement, he stressed the BIMP-EAGA's role in realizing the ASEAN vision. He reaffirmed the sub-region's position as a Food Basket for the ASEAN and the rest of Asia and as a Premier Eco-Tourism Destination because of the rich biodiversity of the area.

The meeting continued with the discussion of the organization's progress and economic development objectives.

Originally, the President was scheduled to depart in the evening after the closing ceremonies of the event. However, due to the turbulence brought by the tropical storm "Bebeng" (international name: Aure), President Aquino delayed his return.

He stayed for the night and ordered updates on the situation in the country. He instructed officials to cater to the needs of the people affected.

Notes:

**BIMP-EAGA was launched in 1994, with the purpose of hastening economic development in the four countries. The countries' location makes their unity advantageous because of the combined resources in the area.*

The President's Day: May 9, 2011

7:00 AM May 9, 2011 (Jakarta Time) – The President boarded the Challenger and took flight for the Philippines.

12:00 NN May 9, 2011 (Manila Time) – The President arrived at the Villamor Airbase where he delivered his arrival speech.

In his speech, President Aquino declared that our country is pleased to hear that we have the full support and confidence of our neighboring nations.

They have seen how we are developing and now we are known not as a country that benefits from their support but a nation that can provide aid whenever it is needed. Indonesia, for example, is currently studying the “Pantawid Pasada Program.” They are looking into its feasibility when applied to their country and how it can aid the dilemmas on energy. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, too, had expressed interest in broadening trade with the Philippines.

Our country also headed the 7th Brunei Darussakam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). President Aquino stated that this was an honor for it showed the involved parties’ trust in our capabilities.

The President proclaimed that we will continue to interact with our neighboring countries for it will be easier for the country to grow if done in sync with the ASEAN Region.

The President's Day: May 10, 2011

Today marks the first year after the 2010 May National Elections.

President Aquino graced the 112th Anniversary Celebration of the Commission of Audit (COA) held in the COA Cultural and Sports Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

The President, in his speech, lauded COA's efforts in aid of the administration's fight against corruption. Things are changing, the President said. Before, corrupt government official feasted on the nation's funds. Now, they shiver even upon only hearing the name COA.

President Aquino was all praises for COA Commissioner Heidi Mendoza who testified against former AFP comptroller Carlos Garcia, Chairperson Ma. Garcia Pulido-Tan, and the achievers of the department. He assured the institution that they are not alone in the fight against corruption. Divisions like the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) are in the battle as well and are doing good work in safeguarding public funds.

The President hoped that the fight's momentum would continue. He pledged that rewards for their hard and daring work would come not just in the form of "Thank yous" but in an effect of a better standard of living due to the economic growth resulted by their honest and consistent effort.

The President declared that the road to a better Philippines is simple: "Habang ginagawa ninyo ang trabaho ninyo, kumukonti 'yung "just tiis" ng ating kapwa Pilipino." He ended his speech by expressing COA's worth and wishing them good throughout the fight: "Kayo po ang nagbibigay ng lakas. Lumakas sana kayo, nang lalong lumakas pa ang ating pamahalaan sa paglilinkod sa taong bayan."

After the event, the President answered questions during an interview with the media held at the same venue. In the interview, he expressed his surprise and contempt for the Sandiganbayan order approving Carlos Garcia's plea bargain after all the testimonies and rigorous processes in the senate.

Answering queries about his SALN, he explained that the rise of his net worth was due to his inheritance after his mother, Cory Aquino's death.

After the interview, President Aquino proceeded for lunch with the Members of the Senate in the President's Conference Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace. They discussed priority bills; elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) being one of them. They aim to synchronize the ARMM elections to dismiss any allegations of command votes and to achieve an electoral process that would be mandated by the people.

That evening, President Aquino attended the Liberal Party (LP) Fellowship Night in the LP Headquarters in Cubao, Quezon City. He urged all his party mates to remain united so that they may achieve the administration's goal of a better Philippines.

The President's Day: May 11, 2011

The President spent his morning in meetings with his advisers.

In the afternoon, President Aquino attended a meeting with Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to review cases under the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program.

Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang said that the President is pleased with the way cases are being handled and filed. President Aquino further instructed his cabinet to explore if there are other possible actions that could hasten the process with respect to the judicial proceedings against tax evaders.

The President spent the rest of his day attending more meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: May 12, 2011

Today, the President met with Executive Secretary Pacquito Ochoa Jr., Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, and Solicitor-General Jose Anselmo Cadiz to discuss measures to be taken with regard the Sandiganbayan's decision on retired Major General Carlos Garcia's plea bargain.

President Aquino's day continued with more engagements with his advisers and attendance to state papers.

The President's Day: May 13, 2011

Today, President Aquino graced the launching of the National Greening Program (NGP)* held in the Social Hall of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Building in Diliman, Quezon City.

As part of the ceremony, the President registered his name to the newly created NGP website.

Afterwards, President Aquino witnessed as DENR Secretary Ramon Paje present a copy of the NGP Plans and Target to United Nations (UN) Country Representative Jacqueline Badcock.

The President, assisted by Secretary Paje, presented awards of recognition to six posthumous recipients of the Environmental Heroes Award. The awardees are as follows: Kenedy Eder Bayani (Forest Ranger, Luna, Apayao); Rolando Sinday (Tree Marker, Lianga, Surigao del Sur); Jacinto Dragas (Forest Ranger, Bislig, Surigao del Sur); Pierre Gillo (Community Environment and Natural Resource Officer, Tacloban City); Nelson Luna (Bantay Gubat, Bislig, Surigao del Sur); and Christopher Mazo (Chief of Police, Lianga, Surigao del Sur).

The recipients died in the field performing their duties to safeguard the environment. "May their dedication and professionalism serve as great examples to every Filipino," the President said in Filipino.

The families of the recipients will receive financial and livelihood assistance as well as scholarships from the government.

The President delivered a speech stressing the importance of planting. He said that lives of fellow countrymen are being lost due to disasters caused by deforestation. He hopes this program could aid in addressing pollution, saving the watershed that is our source of clean water, growing the number of mangroves that serve as homes for plant and animal life, and providing a sustainable and steady source of food and wood for the country.

President Aquino stated that through these efforts, we will be able to sustain the environment and thus ourselves.

He continued by stressing the program's point:

"Nagtatanim tayo ng binhi upang mamunga ng mas maginhawa at mas masaganang kinabukasan para sa mga Pilipino. Tulad ng isang tunay na halaman, diligan natin, alagaan, at bantayan ang proyektong ito upang masilayan natin ang ganap nitong pamumunga at pamumulaklak."

And urged every Filipino to join in fulfilling this agenda.

The ceremony continued at the Heroes National Park, where a Tree Planting Activity was lead by President Aquino.

After, the President proceeded to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center for the unveiling of the Bulwagang Ninoy Statue.

Notes:

** The President issued Executive Order No. 26 (s. 2011) directing the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP). The NGP is considered the biggest reforestation program in the history of the Philippines. The aim is to plant 1.5 billion seedlings in 1.5 million hectares in six years (from 2011-2016) for environmental protection and agroforestry purposes. It should be noted that for the past 22 years (1986-2008), only 1 million hectares have been planted on.*

The President's Day: May 14, 2011

Today, through the invitation of United States (US) Ambassador Harry Thomas, President Aquino visited the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier.* He spent time with the ship's crew, a number of which were Filipino Americans.

On board with the President were Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Notes:

**USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier is the vessel that carried Osama bin Laden's corpse after the raid in Bin Laden's hideout in Pakistan.*

The President's Day: May 15, 2011

The President started his Sunday with an early-morning public event. In his sports attire, he headed to the Quezon Memorial Circle to lead the Department of Health's (DOH) "Ehersisyong Pangkalusugan para sa Lahat.*" He was received by Quezon City Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista and DOH Secretary Enrique Ona at the start of the program.

The President delivered a speech stressing the importance of exercise especially in preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, and diabetes which are the primary reasons for death in the whole world. He also stated the government's priorities in servicing the 40 percent of Filipinos who lack access to healthcare through the implementation of the universal medical healthcare and the deployment of 10, 000 nurses, through the RN HEALS program, to areas covered by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

He declared that the government is consistently continuing to find remedies to the problems of the nation, and the country needs healthy citizens to hasten progress:

"Kakailanganin natin ang isang malusog at matatag na sambayanan upang mapabilis ang ating pag-unlad. Handa na pong umarangkada muli ang ating bansa tungo sa finish line kung saan ang lahat ng Pilipino ay panalo, masigla at masagana. "

After the program, President Aquino got on his bicycle to lead the biking activity.

Notes:

** The DOH event aims to convey the message that exercise is for everyone, and that people of all ages, shapes and sizes from all walks of life can and should engage in regular physical activity.*

For the program's launch, a flurry of events will be held nationwide, top-billed by a 3-10km journey (run/walk/jog/bike) from the University of the Philippines-Diliman Campus, Trinoma area and Sandiganbayan to the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

The President's Day: May 16, 2011

Today, the President received two courtesy calls.

He first met with Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (ANZ)* CEO Michael Smith. At the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Smith and President Aquino discussed the economic and community contributions of ANZ and other possible measures of further expanding ANZ's services in the country.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne was received next in the Malacañan Music Room. President Aquino hosted a luncheon in honor of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

Notes:

** ANZ Group is among the top 10 listed companies in Australia. It is the largest Australian bank in Asia and the largest listed company in New Zealand. It provides a range of banking and financial products and services to more than 5.7 million retail customers and employs around 48,000 people worldwide. The Bank operates in 32 countries – Australia, New Zealand, throughout Asia and the Pacific including the Philippines, and in the Middle East, Europe and America.*

The President's Day: May 17, 2011

Today, upon the invitation of Manila City Mayor Alfredo Lim, President Aquino graced the inauguration of the 6th to 10th floors of the Sta. Ana hospital located at New Panaderos St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

In his speech, the President stressed that this project was yet another measure of the Local Government of Manila to improve the health of its citizens. The National Government is taking part of this initiative by providing an endoscopy unit, a device placed inside our bodies to search for complications in our health.

He further affirmed that the Department of Health (DOH) is continuously pouring its efforts in order for Filipinos to gain easier access to healthcare.

Also, President Aquino delivered news from Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima that there was a 7.6 increase in Gross Domestic Products (GDP). He stressed that there is still five years left in his term and things will get better still especially if we Filipinos unite in creating a better Philippines.

After the inauguration, President Aquino proceeded to the Palace's State Dining Room to preside over a board meeting with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

The President's Day: May 18, 2011

Today, President Aquino flew to Davao City to attend the 14th Annual Convention of the Philippine Medical Association in the Grand Pilipinas Ballroom of the Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City.

In his speech, the President shared an anecdote about a child he met in the newly inaugurated Sta. Ana hospital in Manila. He described the child as missing as someone who has probably already lost his childhood. He uttered that four out of ten Filipinos never get to see a health professional in their entire lives because of poverty and lack of access to health facilities.

“This to me is unacceptable,” said the President. “Each and every Filipino deserves to be cared for in times of sickness—and we are moving as quickly as we can toward this goal.”

He continued by stating the government's effort in providing such aid because it was his oath to significantly reduce poverty and part of the measure in doing so was providing accessible and quality healthcare to our people.

The President also acknowledged that “prevention is better than cure,” the government has taken measures through campaigns such as “Iligtas sa Tigdas and ‘Pinas” and imposing environmental law like the Clean Air Act.

President Aquino continued with another anecdote; a 16 year old girl he met in Baseco who, at a young age, already has two children. Taking off from this story, he stressed the importance of responsible parenthood.

The President reiterated that the Reproductive Health Bill must be against abortion. “We do not want, and we will not, force anyone to go against their individual consciences. All we want is to give our people a chance to make their own intelligent and well-informed decisions,” said President Aquino. “It is right to educate our people, instead of holding them hostage to the scant resources available to them, and it is right to grant them free will, which is their inherent right.”

He urged the Church to cooperate with the government on matters where they agree.

The President, before ending his speech, highlighted the Sta. Ana Hospital as an example of cooperation between the national and local government and as a symbol of optimism that finally the country is heading towards the good path.

“In the end, what we want is simple: We want that little boy in Sta. Ana Hospital to be able to wear a real smile on his face; we want the young mother in Baseco to be able to raise her children in an environment where they would know better than to repeat the mistakes of the past; we want each and every Juan de la Cruz to reach his fullest potential.”

Upon his arrival in Manila, President Aquino made a surprise visit at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 to check on the airport's depleting condition.

The President's Day: May 26, 2011

Thursday, May 26, 2011 (Bangkok is one hour behind Manila)

Today the President departed for Thailand upon the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva (*A-pi-sit We-tcha-chi-wa*).

In a statement he delivered before his departure, President Aquino expressed his optimism about the trip. He said that he will be meeting with the Prime Minister to strengthen Filipino – Thai relations and fortify unity in the ASEAN Region. Both parties will dialogue about measures that will benefit both countries' progress in the political, economical and environmental sphere especially during these times of crisis.

He will also be visiting Filipinos in Thailand to thank them for all the hard work and support that they are providing to the Philippines.

At the end of his statement, President Aquino reminded the Disaster Officials' promise regarding the impending typhoon:

“Bago po ako magpaalam, inaasahan ko pong lahat ng nangako sa akin na handang-handa na tayo sa parating na bagyo—tatlong araw na raw pong handa—ay talagang matutupad po't hindi po ako magugulat habang nasa Thailand. At ‘pag ako po ay nagulat, magugulat rin po kayo pagbalik ko.”

10:30AM May 26, 2011 –The President departed for Bangkok via Philippine Airlines Flight PR 730 from NAIA Terminal 2.

12:50PM May 26, 2011 – (1:50 AM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President arrived at the Suvarnabhumi (pronounced as “*Soo-wanna-poom*”) International Airport. Upon arrival at the airport, the President was welcomed by Thai Deputy Prime Minister Trairong Suwankiri. He was accorded planeside honors as part of the courtesies that the Thai Government gives to incoming Heads of States.

2:40PM May 26, 2011 – (3:40 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President met with the Charoen Pokphand (CP) Foods* PLC President and CEO Adirek Sripratak. The meeting offered President Aquino the opportunity to encourage the CP Group to further expand operations in the Philippines by investing in various agriculture projects available through the PPP program and other investment areas.

3:15PM May 26, 2011 – (4:15 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President met with SIAM Cement Group (SCG)* President and CEO Mr. Kan Trakulhoon. The meeting provided the President the opportunity to encourage SCG to expand its business in the Philippines in line with their core expertise in chemicals, paper, cement, building materials and distribution.

3:50PM May 26, 2011 – (4:50 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President met with PTT Public Company Limited* President and CEO Mr. Prasert Bunsumpun. The meeting gave the President the opportunity to encourage more investments from PTT Public Company Limited in line with their core businesses such as oil and gas exploration and processing, oil and gas retail and distribution, and energy generation.

5:30PM May 26, 2011 – (6:30 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President arrived at the Government House where he was received by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva; after which the Official Welcoming Ceremony follows. The welcoming ceremony marks the official start of the President's official visit to Thailand, pursuant to Thai protocol.

5:45PM May 26, 2011 – (6:45 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The bilateral meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva started. The bilateral meeting is considered to be the highlight of the President's visit to Thailand.

After the bilateral meeting, the Thai Prime Minister invited the President to sign the Government House Guest Book, and view the display of gifts from both leaders.

6:40PM May 26, 2011 – (7:40 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended a joint press conference with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva (*A-pi-sit We-tcha-chi-wa*). Both leaders delivered their opening statements with the Thai Prime Minister going first. After which they entertained a few questions from the members of the Philippine and Thai Media.

7:00PM May 26, 2011 – (8:00 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President attended the Official Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva (*A-pi-sit We-tcha-chi-wa*). The Official Dinner is a standard courtesy accorded by the Thai Government to visiting Heads of State/Government.

9:00PM May 26, 2011 – (10:00 PM May 26, 2011 Manila Time) The President interacted with the Philippine Media to discuss the day's events at the Shangri-la Hotel.

Notes:

**The CP Group of Thailand established the Charoen Pokphand Foods Philippines Corporation (CPFPC) on May 24, 2007.*

** The SCG was founded under the Royal Decree of His Majesty King Rama VI in 1913 as Thailand's first cement producer. It has now become the largest and most advanced industrial conglomerate in Thailand.*

** PTT Public Company Limited is a Thailand state-owned, Stock Exchange of Thailand-listed oil and gas company engaged in integrated petroleum and petrochemical businesses through direct investments and investments in its affiliates. It is one of the largest corporations in Thailand and also the only company from Thailand that is listed in the Fortune Global 500 companies, ranking 155th among top 500 companies in the world and 38th in Asia.*

The President's Day: May 27, 2011

Today marks the final day of the President's visit in Thailand.

09:00 a.m. Bangkok time – (10:00 a.m. Manila time) The President left Shangri-la Hotel for the Kasetsart University (KU) where he was conferred an honorary doctorate degree in Economics.

09:25 a.m. Bangkok time – (10:25 Manila time) The President attended his conferment at the Kasetsart University (KU). KU, translated as "University of Agriculture," was founded pursuant to the KU Act of 1943. It is the first agricultural and third oldest university in Thailand.

10:40 a.m. Bangkok time – (11:40 Manila time) The President arrived at the Siriraj Hospital to sign a "Well-Wishing" guestbook* for the King. This act conveyed the Government's and the Filipino people's wishes for the King's early and speedy recovery.

11:15 a.m. Bangkok time – (12:15 p.m. Manila time) The President met with the Filipino Community in Thailand. The meeting gave the President the opportunity to touch base with Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Thailand and highlight his Administration's priorities. Thailand is one of the President's "overseas bailiwicks," where he got 44.2% of the 834 total votes cast in overseas absentee voting in Thailand.

1:10 p.m. Bangkok time – (2:10 p.m. Manila time) The President left for Suvarnabhumi International Airport for his departure back to Manila.

Notes:

**A "well-wishing" guestbook is available at the Siriraj hospital for dignitaries and ordinary people to sign and wish King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Phu-mi-pon A-dun-ya-det) good health and speedy recovery.*

The President's Day: May 28, 2011

The President spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: May 29, 2011

The President had no public events for this day.

The President's Day: May 30, 2011

This morning at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace, President Aquino received a courtesy call from United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif. The occasion was the Southeast Asia launching of the UN Decade on Biodiversity and the International Year of Forests.

After their meeting, President Aquino and Dr. Djoghlaif proceeded to Rizal Ceremonial Hall for the launch.

During his speech, President Aquino stressed the importance of biodiversity, which, he said, is “much more than what we think it means.”

It is “the ebb and flow of the oceans; the mountains and valleys that evoke from us inspiration, awe, and an awareness of our own smallness in the face of the world. Biodiversity is the delicate thread,” said the President, “connecting every organism that lives and thrives on this planet; it is everything that we call home.”

Although the ASEAN region is richly diverse, said the President, and thus giving it a competitive advantage in the global scene, “there are those who still see the environment as nothing more than a means to make an easy and quick profit without regard for the long-term consequences.”

He talked about the environmental plunder from Cotabato waters and the damaged reef twice the size of Manila, calling it just an instance under the macro problem of the environment, which must be addressed immediately. “If it was not clear before, then it is as clear as day now: We need to act,” he said. “We need to act now.”

He enumerated the efforts the government has been taking in this regard, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ project to expand the terrestrial protected areas in the country, beginning with nine key biodiversity areas; the recently launched the National Greening Program; and his dialogues with regional neighbors, wherein he urged for continued support of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

“We want to change the way things are; we want to make life better, not only for Filipinos, but ultimately, for the citizens of the world; not only for those who are here now, but more importantly, for those who will come tomorrow,” he said

Also, during the program, President Aquino announced Presidential Proclamation No 178, declaring 2011–2020 as the National Decade on Biodiversity in the Philippines, which he had signed in support of the UN’s worldwide initiative.

Furthermore, he proclaimed the large and old balete tree which stands outside Kalayaan hall—aged over a hundred years—as a Heritage Tree to symbolize the Philippines’ commitment to the UN Program and to serve as a constant reminder of our “obligations, both as citizens of this country and stewards of this planet.”

That afternoon, the President held a press briefing at the New Executive Building, headquarters of the Communications Group. He announced that he had received a letter from Bureau of Corrections Director Ernesto Diokno earlier today, tendering the latter’s resignation. President Aquino accepted the resignation, and thanked Diokno for his service and principled decision.

“Muli’t muli nating idinidiin na ang katapatan at responsibilidad ang kaakibat ng isang lingkod-bayan. Lahat ng may pananagutan sa naganap sa Bureau of Corrections ay susuriin upang mabigyan ng karampatang parusa. Diretso ang paninindigan: tanging ang interes lamang ng mga mamamayan ang tumitimon sa ating mga desisyon, at hindi ang ugnayan o pakikipagkaibigan kanino man,” the President said.

The President's Day: May 31, 2011

The President spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 1, 2011

Today marked President Aquino's State visit in Brunei.

In his departure speech, President Aquino thanked Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah for the invitation. He said it was a rare occasion and an excellent opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations and bring news about the good business atmosphere in the Philippines.

Like all other visits, the President said that the trip to Brunei's purpose was to harness the Philippines and Brunei's friendship more and increase cooperation between them. He stressed the Filipino spirit of bayanihan or communal responsibility, which brings forth new solutions for dilemmas and international respect, will be soul of the visit.

He thanked Brunei for their help in the peace process in Mindanao. He also said that he will be visiting Filipinos working in Brunei.

He ended by expressing that the visits to other countries produce positive results that serve as affirmation of the effectiveness of the government's programs, thus, a confirmation that the Philippines is in gear towards the right path.

10:30 AM – The President arrived at Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport. He was welcomed by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince of Brunei, the Minister of Health, the Military-in-Attendance, the Brunei Chief Protocol, and some Liaison Officers.

11:00 AM – The President arrived at Istana Nurul Iman for the Official Welcoming Ceremony and the arrival honors.

12:30 PM – The President had private lunch together with his accompanying official delegation.

2:15 PM – The President met with the Filipino Community in Brunei. Brunei was among the overseas voting centers that granted the President a landslide victory in the May 2010 elections.

3:15 PM – The President arrived at the newly constructed Philippine Embassy Chancery.*

8:15 PM – The President returned to Istana Nurul Iman for the Royal Banquet where he delivered a speech.

In his speech, President Aquino thanked His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the people of Brunei for the warm welcome he received.

He was also thankful for the accommodation that Brunei offered to the OFWs: "in their faces I saw the same comfort and happiness that I see back home, proof of how kind your country—their second home—has been to them. This, too, is a source of my heartfelt gratitude."

President Aquino shared that during former President Corazon C. Aquino's struggles to rebuild the country after the dictatorship, His Majesty stood by her "not only as an ally but as a friend."

The President referred to a mosque in Cotabato City whose construction was partly funded through donations by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. "We eagerly await the day—hopefully soon—when His Majesty himself will step into this mosque, and see the results of his and his people's kindness," the President said in his speech.

He used the mosque as a metaphor of the Philippines and Brunei's strong standing relationship: "As the mosque in Cotabato stands built with the strongest stone; as it blazes bright as gold under the sun—so does the friendship between the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam."

Notes:

** The chancery symbolizes the Philippines' long-term commitments to its bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam. It is located on an 11,750-square meter lot at the entrance of the Diplomatic Enclave in Jalan Kebangsaan, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.*

The Chancery incorporates many features of modern Philippine architecture such as the openness and hospitality of the Filipino people.

The Chancery also features green architecture and sustainable design. It uses natural light, a wind tower, and a courtyard to enhance ventilation and heat management. It also utilizes lush vegetation in the "green" walls, "green" roof, and planter boxes to enable it to blend with Brunei Darussalam's natural landscape. It provides the building occupants and guests with a sense of oneness with nature as well.

The President's Day: June 2, 2011

Today marked the last day of President Aquino's State visit in Brunei.

9:00 AM – The President presided over a series of meetings with QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd. Col., Ltd; the Brunei Economic Development Board; the Mashhor Group of Companies; and the Brunei Investment Agency. Among the topics tackled were investments in the energy sector and possible certification for Halal food processing, which would enable the Philippines to tap into the lucrative Halal food market. Investors also expressed interest in the Philippines corn, sugar, and cacao industries, as well as in sand and stone.

11:30 PM – President Aquino had private lunch with his accompanying delegation.

1:00 PM – The President went on a tour of the Royal Regalia. The Royal Regalia Building was officially opened on September 30, 1992 by His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. It was been designed to incorporate various characteristics of the philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy and has become another landmark of Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei Darussalam. This building displays a large number of the Royal Regalia that had been inherited from generation to generation, such as royal carriages, ceremonial weapons, and gifts to the Sultanate from foreign leaders and dignitaries.

2:00 PM – President Aquino went on a tour of the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque. The Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque is a mosque built on a 20-acre piece of land to commemorate the Silver Jubilee anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's reign to the throne. It is the biggest mosque in Brunei Darussalam.

3:00 PM – The President departed for Manila via Presidential Plane F-28 from the Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport.

5:15 PM – The President arrived at the Kalayaan Lounge of Villamor Airbase, Pasay City.

In his arrival statement, President Aquino said that the visit gave the country the opportunity to thank Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah for his undying support and friendship with the Philippines. He was also thankful that he met the Filipinos living in Brunei. He expressed joy upon knowing that they were having a good life in the said country.

The President said that the encounter was a realization indeed: "Paano kayang nangyaring ang ginhawa ng Pilipino ay kaytagal nang napakahirap makamtan sa Pilipinas? Bakit kailangan pang dumayo ng ating mga kababayan para makaranas ng kasaganahan?"

He said that that was the concern that the government is addressing: to bring back glory to the country; to make the Philippines a place where a one can live a dignified life through hard work. During his visit, President Aquino encouraged businessmen to invest in the Philippines to generate more jobs for the Filipinos.

The President said that he was thrilled about Brunei's interest in some of our industries specifically in energy and food industry. Brunei is known for its wide experience in the energy sector and their aid would help the country greatly when they share their knowledge and technology with us.

Besides Food and Energy, Brunei was impressed with our creative industries, said the President. They are willing to accept aid in terms of product development, branding, and design with their industries and products.

"Talaga naman ang sarap maging Pilipino, lalo na ngayong nababawi na natin ang ating pambansang dangal," said President Aquino.

The President's Day: June 3, 2011

The President spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 6, 2011

This morning, in the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, President Benigno S. Aquino III signed into law Republic Act 10149 or the Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCC) Governance Act of 2011.

The Act aims to promote financial viability and fiscal disciplines of GOCCs, and to strengthen the role of the State in their governance and management to make them more responsive to the needs of the Filipino people.

In his speech delivered during the signing ceremony, President Aquino said the administration is continuing to pave the road toward a better Philippines. He likened the government's agenda for the GOCCs to his famous campaign against the abusive use of sirens or "wang-wang" by government officials, which the President spearheaded with his inaugural address, and which sends out a powerful message: That the people in government are not there for their serve their personal interests, but are there to serve. The Act sends this message in the form of official action against the purported anomalies involving GOCCs and their executives.

"Sa mga inilalatag nating reporma, lumilinaw na po ang ating patutunguhan. Tiwala tayo na sa pamamagitan ng GOCC Governance Act, matatapos na ang panahon ng paliku-liko at masalimuot na pamamahala; ang nakagawiang sistemang padrino at pashortcut-shortcut," the President said.

After the ceremony, the President headed to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall to attend the Oathtaking Ceremony of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FCCCII).

The President, in his speech, highlighted the organization's contributions to Filipino society, which extend beyond economics, but also toward the enrichment of the youth. The organization's commitment, he said, is manifested by the 454 two-classroom buildings they symbolically turned over on that day. "I am hopeful that these 454 buildings are just the beginning of a long and fruitful cooperation," said President Aquino. He extended his gratitude to Mr. Tan Ching, the current FCCCII president, whom he described as "the epitome of a very reasonable individual—somebody that we can partner with in making our country grow."

To the FCCCII members, he said: "You have remained aware of your moral obligations to your respective communities, and have constantly given back. You have displayed a love for your country reminiscent of our greatest Chinese-Filipino heroes, such as Ignacio Pua, Vicente Lim, or even St. Lorenzo Ruiz; and I am grateful that you have continued this long-standing and historic tradition of heroism."

The President ended his speech by reiterating his administration's position of enriching private – public partnerships. He said "partnership between the public and the private sector is the main key to getting us to our rightful place in the sun."

In the afternoon, President Aquino again proceeded to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall for the Official Launch of the Puerto Princesa Underground River campaign to be one of the of the New 7 Wonders of Nature—an advocacy President Aquino has supported since last year, and a contest wherein the number of votes sent through SMS holds sway.

"In the Philippines, we have no less than 80 million cellphone users, sending nearly two billion text messages every day," he said. "All we need is one billion votes—so that is half a day.

"A large number of us also have access to the Internet. So I urge everyone to take part in this democracy-in-action on behalf of our own environment," he continued. "By voting online at www.new7wonders.com, or—simpler—by texting PPUR to 2861, we can help the Puerto Princesa Underground River, as well as the Philippines, garner a distinct spot on the international tourist map."

“This is a situation where we can carve out our future,” the President said, and explained that being part of the New 7 Wonders would reap for the Puerto Princesa community, as well as the country, tourism benefits that would translate to economic rewards, thus, providing jobs and a better standard of living for the Filipino People.

“Voting will take mere seconds. Benefits to our people will last a lifetime,” President Aquino concluded.

After the launch, the President proceeded to the Ateneo Professional Schools Building in the Rockwell Center in Makati City to attend the 75th Diamond Anniversary of the Ateneo Law School.

The President delivered a speech in which he talked about the principles of law that he learned from Fr. Joaquin Bernas—the country’s premiere constitutionalist and one of Ateneo Law School’s most prestigious professors: “Tumatawid ito sa mga mamamayan, nagtataguyod ng walang-kinikilingang hustisya at naghahatid ng katarungan sa tapat at mahusay na paraan: walang manipulasyon, walang pagbabaluktot at hindi nakatuon sa pagpapapogi o sa pagpaparami ng laman ng pitaka.”

He said that this was also the principle that guides the administration, and that all their efforts were all because of the drive to provide for the Filipino people who have suffered long enough under corruption and injustice. “Binubura na natin ang kultura ng ‘just-tiis,’ at ipinararamdam ang kahulugan ng salitang ‘justice’,” he said.

He urged all the lawyers present to join the effort for change in the system.

The President's Day: June 7, 2011

Today, President Aquino was paid a courtesy call by the seven Pilipinas Shell Teams that will be competing in the Shell Eco-marathon Asia 2011*, which will be held at the Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 6 – 9, 2011.

The members of the delegation presented the vehicles that were of their own build and design, which they will be driving during the course of the competition.

The seven teams are composed of engineering students from six of the top universities in the Philippines.

In the afternoon, the President headed to the New Executive Building of the Malacañan Palace to formally announce the appointment of former Senator Manuel “Mar” Roxas II as the new Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

“Hindi puwedeng magtiwala tayo sa kung sinu-sino para palitan ang pinuno nito. Una, ang papalit, kailangang may talino at kakayahang magpatakbo ng isa sa pinakamalaki at pinakamayamang ahensya ng gobyerno. Mas mahalaga, kailangan ng isang taong kaya akong sabayan sa pagtahak sa tuwid na landas,” President Aquino said.

Later, the President welcomed the US Congressional Delegation (CODEL) during a courtesy call in the President's Conference Room.

The visit was part of the delegation's routine overseas trip to keep close relationships with their counterparts.

Notes:

The Shell Eco-marathon is annual competition that seeks to inspire high school and college student teams to design, build and test energy efficient vehicles. The contest is open to schools from around the world with annual events in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Winners are the teams that travel the farthest distance utilizing the least amount of energy.

The President's Day: June 8, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 9, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a series of courtesy calls from Ambassadors-Designate Samori Ang'wa Okwiya of Kenya; Richard Ramoeletsi of Lesotho; Nicos Panayi of Cyprus; Adam Jelonek of Poland; and Mohamed Hassairi of Tunisia.

The President welcomed the Ambassadors-Designate in the Music Room of the Malacañan Palace to receive their credentials.

The new state representatives shared a common aspiration: to strengthen their respective countries' relationship with the Philippines.

The President's Day: June 10, 2011

This morning, the President graced the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of the Malacañan Palace for the Oath taking of Appointed Government Officials.

The Appointed Officials are as follows:

Danilo Cortez, presidential adviser on military affairs of the Office of the President;

Belen Anota, Philippine ambassador to Australia; Virginia Benavidez, ambassador to New Zealand; Enrique Manalo, ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Bayani Mercado, ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway; Lourdes Morales, ambassador to the Kingdom of The Netherlands; Cristina Ortega, ambassador to the French Republic; Generoso Calonge, ambassador to the State of Israel; Virgilio Reyes Jr., ambassador to the Italian Republic; Leslie Baja, ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, Eleanor Jaucian, ambassador to Hungary; Joselito Jimeno, ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman; Eduardo Malaya III, ambassador to Malaysia; Meynardo Montealegre, ambassador to the Hellenic Republic; Ramoncito Marino, ambassador to the Republic of Palau;

Annaliza Te, undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Richard Bon Moya, chief information officer, Department of Budget and Management (DBM); Eugenio Pipo Jr., assistant secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); Sitti Jehanne Mutin-Mapupuno, assistant secretary, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPPAP); Heidi Mendoza, commissioner, Commission on Audit (COA); Rasol Lampin Mitmug, commissioner, Civil Service Commission (CSC); Salvador Ner, acting administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration; Fenicar Tabao, senior state solicitor, Office of the Solicitor General; Rene Orbe, deputy director general, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA); Abdullah Mangotara, acting associate commissioner, Bureau of Immigration; Amihilda Sangcopan-Abdulkhakim, acting deputy executive director, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF); Ruben Platon, acting president, Philippine Public Safety College; Victorino Manalo, executive director, National Archives of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA); Leslie Jeanne Cordero, vice chairman, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB);

Roberto Garcia, chairman, board of directors (SBMA). SBMA board of directors: Benjamin Antonio III, Philip Camara, Ramon Sedoyro, Norberto Sosa, Alfonso Siapno, Gerald Sam del Rosario, Wilfredo Pineda, Francis Garcia, Bienvenido Benitez, and John Philip Chua Chiaco;

BCDA board of directors: Teresita Desierto, Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Ma. Aurora Geotina Garcia, Ferdinand Golez, and Elmar Gomez;

Maj. Gen. Tristan Kison, commander, National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM); Maj. Gen. Pompeo Limbo, Philippine Army; Brig. Gen. Mario Mendoza, Philippine Army; Brig. Gen. Jesus Lomeda Jr., J6; Brig. Gen. Rene Pilapil, National Development Support Command (Nadescom), Comdr Antonio Mendoza, General Headquarters; Brig. Gen. Alexander Bote, Philippine Air Force (PAF); Brig. Gen. Charito Plaza, Philippine Air Force; and Brig Gen. Elihu Ybanez, Philippine Air Force.

In the afternoon, President Aquino welcomed the Executives of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) in a courtesy call held in the President's conference Room, Malacañan Palace.

Hyundai is one of the top selling car companies in the country. It has worked its way to the top 5 car companies in the Philippines after only six years upon its entry.

The President's Day: June 11, 2011

Today, the President graced the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.'s (FFCCCCI) joint celebration of the 113th Philippine Independence Day, 150th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, 36th Anniversary of Philippines-China Diplomatic Relations and the 10th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

This was the second time President Aquino attended an FFCCCCI event.

"To reiterate my gratitude, I stand here before you again, on the eve of this important occasion for your federation and for our country," said the President in his speech.

He noted the presence of the Chinese Ambassador and spoke of the products of the relationship between the Philippines and China. He said the money generated by the trade would be aid to the various concerns the government is addressing such as health care and proper education.

The President again expressed his gratitude for the contributions the institution provided like the 8, 200 classrooms under the "Operation Barrio Schools."

But "the important thing is this: that to this day, the true manifestation of our solidarity as one Filipino people can be seen in the presence of the Chinese-Filipinos here today—people of Chinese descent who have chosen to call themselves Filipino," said President Aquino.

He stressed that we continue on this path "to create partnerships characterized by continued dialogue and a culture of mutual respect for our historic and our current partners."

The President's Day: June 12, 2011

Today, the country celebrates its 113th year of independence.

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the General Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite for the Wreath-Laying and Flag-Raising Ceremonies that would mark the start of the Philippine Independence Day Celebration.

He delivered a speech saying that before, we fought against colonizers; now, we battle poverty and the freedom that the nation is trying to achieve now is freedom from poverty.

“Kung gusto nating palayain ang bayan, kailangan nating palayain ang gobyerno, at ang sarili, mula sa kasakiman,” the President said.

He said that as Filipinos, we share the same sentiments; we are tired of our present situation and we crave for change.

President Aquino enumerated the administration's efforts in addressing the country's dilemmas. He mentioned endeavors with the LLDA and the DPWH.

He mentioned the efforts to boost tourism through the pocket open skies policy; the GOCC Governance Act to regulate Government Owned or Controlled Corporations; and the synchronization of the ARMM Elections together with the National Elections.

He highlighted the housing project in Bocaue, Bulacan that would initially provide 4, 000 houses for soldiers and policemen and through the proper handling of the funds, 21, 800 units would be built after during the duration of the project.

“Isipin na lang po natin kung ang isang dekada ay ginugol sa pagsisilbi nang tapat; baka po pati security guard ay nabigyan na ng pabahay,” President Aquino said.

He also shed light on the agriculture sector stating that the country's imports on rice are slowly improving and soon our farmers would be given a decent livelihood.

President Aquino said that we are opening a new chapter in Philippine history; “kung saan ang bawat Pilipino ay mapipitas ang bunga ng kanyang pinaghirapan; kung saan ang batas ay ipatutupad nang patas, sa mahirap man o sa mayaman; kung saan maaaring panghawakan ng lahat ang sarili niyang kapalaran; kung saan ang kalayaan ay may katuwang na karangalan. Ito ang malayang Pilipinas. Tayo ang malayang Pilipino, hiwalay at kalag na kalag sa kambal na salot ng korupsiyon at kahirapan, sumasalubong sa kinabukasan nang taas-noo at puno ng kagalakan.”

The President was given Full Military Honors upon his arrival and departure.

After the ceremonies, President Aquino travelled back to the Rizal Hall of the Malacañan Palace to preside over the Vin d'honneur for the 2011 anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence.

During the toast, the President reiterated the country's battle for freedom.

He urged everyone to look at the future and pour all efforts in creating a better Philippines for it is the best way to pay respects to the heroes who have fought for our freedom.

“Allow me then to raise my glass to freedom, to our heroes, and, most of all, to the heroes we hope will continue to be etched in our national memory, there for the coming generations of Filipinos to honor: To what our soldiers

fought for; To what our martyrs died for; And to what we, as a nation, aspire to perfect—the fulfillment of the greatest promises of democracy,” said the President.

In the afternoon, President Aquino graced the Quirino Grandstand of the Rizal Park for the annual Independence Day Parade.

In his speech, President Aquino talked about the Philippine National Hero Jose P. Rizal. He reiterated Rizal’s sacrifice. He said that Rizal could have chosen to leave the Philippines and have a peaceful life abroad. Yet, he came back and met his death; all for the country.

“Kung inabutan kaya ni Rizal ang panahong nadatnan natin sa panunungkulan, masabi kaya niyang sulit ang kanyang isinakripsyo?” asked the President.

”Malinaw ang pahayag ng kasaysayan: hindi dapat kalimutan ang nakaraan, kundi garantisadong uulitin natin ang mga kamalian nito,” the President added.

He called on every Filipino to join the administration in its efforts to continue towards the right path.

The government has and is continuing its efforts to address dilemmas with the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). It is pursuing its endeavors with the agricultural sector through programs concerning the importation and production of rice. It is continuing its campaign for the environment through the e-trikes.

He reiterated that as Filipinos, we share the same sentiments; to right the wrongs in society and in the system. We all seek a future where everyone would work hand in hand.

“Malinaw ang ating hangarin: ang madatnan ang isang maayos na kinabukasan kung saan kung may daing ka, may makikinig; kung may kailangan ka, may tutugon, at kung inaapi ka, may magtatanggol. Diretso nating tatahakin ang tuwid na daan,” said President Aquino.

After, the President returned to the Palace for a “Pakain” or Community Fellowship to cap the Independence Day Celebration.

The President's Day: June 13, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 14, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III formally launched the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) in the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

In his speech, the President shared a story about a child in a far-flung province who comes home to a house without electricity.

“Electricity is something that many of us take for granted; but in this day and age, for some people, like this child’s family, it remains a luxury, if not an unfulfilled dream,” said President Aquino.

NREP, according to the President, would lead us to the promised path of a better Philippines. That “Renewable energy fuels our movement toward the rebuilding of this nation.” It would free the country from the constraints of the world oil market and greatly benefit the environment.

He said that he was aware that some forms of renewable energy are costly and it would be a waste for the government to address this program.

“I cannot govern by disregarding our future. We need real solutions; economic development should not come at the cost of our environment,” President Aquino said.

He also assured the people that concerns about the rise in the price of electricity would be closely monitored by the government. He urged everyone to change their perception “that a cleaner future and affordable power prices are conflicting ideas.”

“We were put into office because we want to make life better for our countrymen. We want to free Filipino consumers from the punishment and the instability that staggering world oil prices have been wont to bring about. I want to make this possible not only now, or until the end of my term. I want future Filipinos to reap the fruits of the efforts we have sown today,” said President Aquino.

He urged everyone especially the Filipino Youth, to join the administration in its path of bringing the country into daylight.

In the afternoon, President Aquino welcomed the officials of Hitachi Asia Limited* in the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The officials thanked the President for the assistance the country provided during the tsunami.

After, the President proceeded to the New Executive Building of the Malacañan Palace for a press briefing. President Aquino was with Ramon de Castro, an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) working in Yemen. de Castro got kidnapped by rebels in Yemen. Through the efforts of the government headed by Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Albert Del Rosario, de Castro was spared.

During the briefing, de Castro thanked the President, Secretary Del Rosario, and Undersecretary Rafael Seguis for their endeavors in handling his release.

“Grabe lang iyong tension, dahil last April 25, naka-schedule nilang putulin iyong ulo ko dapat, dahil wala raw representative o nagne-negotiate. Nabalita nila sa radio na mayroon daw representative iyong government natin. So, iyon, parang na pressure sila. Ini-spare nila ako,” said de Castro.

Despite the limitations, President Aquino said that the administration is working hard to fulfill its promise to generate gainful jobs in the Philippines to keep its citizens safe within the confines of the country.

Notes:

** Hitachi, Ltd. is a Japanese multinational corporation head-quartered in Tokyo, Japan that specializes in high-technology industrial machineries, power plants, information systems, and electronics.*

The President's Day: June 15, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 16, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced two events; the De La Salle University Centennial Opening Celebration and the 57th Anniversary Celebration of the Court of Tax Appeals.

In the De La Salle speech, President Aquino lauded the University for its Contributions in molding its students into leaders. He cited La Sallean Alumni holding positions in the administration. He highlighted Brother Armin Luistro who left being the University President to serve and make developments in the sphere of education as its chief.

He also lauded the University, especially its brothers, who stood their ground amidst all the controversies from the "Hello! Garci" scandal and the NBN-ZTE deal.

"Nagsitakbuhan na po ang lahat dahil sa takot, ngunit ang De La Salle Brothers, hindi bumaliktad, at hindi tumigil sa paglalahad ng tunay na sentimyento ng bayan," the President said.

President Aquino also thanked De La Salle for being behind his family during his mother, Corazon Aquino's death.

The President continued by stressing that he was placed in position to bring reforms. He discussed agricultural initiatives in controlling rice production citing that only 800,000 metric tons of rice were imported compared to the 2.5 million from last year.

He mentioned the housing projects for the Philippine Armed Forces; the synchronization of the ARMM election to restore clean elections in the region; and the airing of the Ampatuan Massacre trial, thanking the Supreme Court in hearing their request.

There is much to be done, the President said. He called on everyone to set aside differences and unite for the sake of a better Philippines.

In the Court of Tax Appeals Speech, President Aquino discussed importance of collecting taxes and the role of government in allocating them.

"Kung nagbabayad lang ng tamang buwis ang bawat isa sa atin, at may gobyernong tapat na tinutupad ang kanyang mandato sa pangongolekta nito, pihado pong mapapabilis natin ang pag-unlad ng mga Pilipino," said the President.

Since the start of the plight towards the straight path, the Court of Tax Appeals has done its part in realizing the fight against corruption President Aquino said. He also shared the efforts of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC), and Department of Finance (DOF). Since July 2010 until June of this year, the BIR has recorded 50 tax evasion cases that would reach P23 Billion in taxable amount, the President said.

He stressed that this amount would be used by families under the Conditional Cash Transfer Program.

"Kung ganap nating maisasaayos ang sistema ng pagbubuwis, makakalikom po tayo ng sapat o dagdag na pondo para sa iba pang proyekto ng ating gobyerno," the President added.

The President's Day: June 17, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received courtesy calls from the Philippine Development (PhilDev) Foundation Multisectoral Alliance for Science and Technology Steering Committee and the Officials of Nestle. President Aquino welcomed both parties in the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Present during the PhilDev call were PhilDev President Victoria Garchitorena; PhilDev trustee Winston Damarillo; Tallwood Venture Capital Founder and Managing Partner Diosdado Banatao; Pilipinas Shell President Ed Chua; and Care Com Chief Operating Officer Lheila Lirio Marcelo.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, and Education Secretary Armin Luistro were there as well.

Programs that will benefit the sectors of Education and Science and Technology were brought up during the call.

In the courtesy call of Nestle, Nestle S.A. of Switzerland CEO Paul Bulcke; Nestle S.A. Executive Vice President for Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East Fritz Van Dijk; Nestle Philippines Chair and CEO John Martin Miller; and Nestle Philippines Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Affairs Edith De Leon were present.

Accompanying the President were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) acting Secretary Danilo Cruz, and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Cristino Panlilio.

During the meeting, Bulcke informed President Aquino of the Nestle Philippines facilities in Tanauan, Batangas. He told the President of its target date of completion, March 2012.

Moreover, during the day, also in the Yellow Room of the Bonifacio Hall in Malacanang, President Aquino received the Associated Press for an interview.

The President's Day: June 18, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received the Officials of Liberal International, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty upon the request of Mr. Hans van Baalen, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and President of the Liberal International,* in a courtesy call before the 57th Congress of Liberal International.

President Aquino, as chairman of the Liberal Party of the Philippines, was requested to deliver the Keynote Address at the Opening Session of the Congress.

During the occasion, the President, in his speech, said that the complexities of the changing world where “more and more questions arise, and answers can not always be at hand” is the reason for finding themselves gathering as Liberals.

“The lines that have traditionally defined us, at least politically, have become blurred,” said President Aquino.

He defined the idea of being a Liberal based on the journey the Liberal Party of the Philippines had during the Presidential elections and the principle that binds the Aquino administration.

He said that his Party chose to be different from those whom they replaced: “in the past, the ruling party in its quest to perpetuate itself in power recognized no limits and no other voice but its own, we now choose to be as consultative and inclusive as possible. When before the law was used to harass and silence those who brooked opposition, today we choose to consider the law as a means to engage others in discourse. When before, authority was used to quell hope, today we use it to realize hope.”

He said that “tuwid na daan” or the straight and righteous path is what binds them as Liberals.

“Even in this so-called post-ideological century of ours: the respect for the individual's rights and freedoms; the commitment to make growth inclusive and equitable, so that every man and woman may have the means to fulfill their fullest potential; and the unwavering compassion for those with little means to pursue their dreams,” added the President.

The gathering, according to the President, was to realize the achievements of their potentials as leaders, parties, and nations. And it is the continuing challenge that the Liberals must address.

President Aquino ended his speech by thanking them for honoring the Liberal Party and the country through the efforts and choice of holding the congress in Manila.

Notes:

** Liberal International is an association of parties, groups, cooperating organizations and individuals from countries throughout the world who support Liberal principles and who accept the Liberal Manifesto of 1947, the Declaration of Oxford of 1967 and the Liberal Appeal of Rome of 1981, or called the basic documents of Liberal International.*

The organization aims to win general acceptance of Liberal principles throughout the world, and to foster the growth of a free society based on personal liberty, personal responsibility and social justice, and to provide the means of co-operation and exchange of information between the member organizations, and between men and women of all countries who accept these principles.

The President's Day: June 19, 2011

Today marked the 150th Birth Anniversary of Jose Rizal.

Early this morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Rizal Shrine in Calamba, Laguna (the birthplace of Jose Rizal) to commemorate the start of the occasion.

He presided over the Flag-Raising and Wreath-Laying Ceremonies and toured the Shrine for an exhibit.

After, he proceeded to the New Jose Rizal Monument to unveil the 22-feet bronze statue of Dr. Jose Rizal*.

In his speech, President Aquino said that Rizal, during his childhood, had a good life compared to most that lived under the Spanish Regime. However, like everyone else during those times, his family fell victim to the oppression of the colonizers. His mother was imprisoned though innocent of any crimes. His family's lands and belongings were taken away from them.

Perhaps, it was the scene of injustice that awoke Rizal's consciousness and sentiment, President Aquino said in his speech.

He said that Rizal had a choice of living a good life abroad; he could have chosen to ignore all the injustices happening around him and befriend the oppressors for him to attain certain privileges. But he never strayed from his path. He continued on the road that fought against injustice.

"Hindi po lahat ay pinapalad na tawagin upang magbuwis ng buhay para sa bayan. Subalit para sa nakararami, nasusukat ang pagkabayani sa araw-araw nating pagharap sa maliliit na sangandaan: Ang pagsunod sa batas, ang paggalang sa kapwa, ang paggawa ng tama sa sinumpaan nating mga tungkulin, at ang manindigan sa atin pong prinsipyo," said President Aquino.

He said that the administration's efforts in leading the country to the path of a better Philippines may vanish in the pages of history. But this would not stop him from serving the people. He stressed that affirmation is not what fuels him to perform his duties as President but the will to provide for a child selling sampaguita in the streets who never got the chance to go to school; for an infant in a far-flung province who may grow up to be just like Rizal: a genius, a man with a faithful heart and has great sympathy for his fellow countrymen, a man with endless love for his country.

"Kinikilala natin si Jose Rizal dahil sa harap ng mga sangandaan ng ating masalimuot na kasaysayan, may isang Pilipinong muli't muli ay piniling gawin ang tama—ang unahin ang kapakanan ng kaniyang kapwa, ang itaguyod ang pagkakaisa para sa kalayaan ng atin pong bansa—kahit pa ang kapalit nito ay ang sarili niyang buhay," said President Aquino.

President Aquino quoted a passage from the book *Noli Me Tangere*: "Mamamatay akong di man nakita ang maningning na pagbubukang-liwayway sa aking inang bayan! Kayong makakikita, batiin ninyo siya—at huwag kakalimutan ang mga nalugmok sa dilim ng gabi!"

The President said that we now perceive the dawn and it is because of people like Rizal, who sacrificed their lives to liberate generations that would live after them. He urged everyone to follow this example as to give justice to our heroes' sacrifices.

Notes:

** The statue was sculpted by Jonas Roces and is the tallest monument of Rizal in the world. It is located in a newly-acquired property in front of the Calamba City Hall Complex.*

The President's Day: June 20, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 22, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Cotabato City to personally assess the degree of damage done by the massive flooding and check on government efforts to address the situation.

The immense floods were caused by huge deposits of water hyacinths from the Liguasan Marsh clogging Cotabato City's part of the Rio Grande de Mindanao River thus preventing the passing of rainwater into the Moro Gulf.

In an ambush interview, President Aquino said that the government is providing to the needs of the locals affected by the flood. Water supply quality is being closely monitored and medicines, in case of diseases and illness have been requested.

Shelter and food supply have already been acted on by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Food Authority (NFA) is already checking the amount of rice available for disbursement. Government efforts would extend to off-evacuation site victims.

Plans concerning projects to address the river have also been brought up for assessment and further study.

With the President was Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Rogelio Singson. Secretary Singson answered inquiries about the disbursement of public funds saying that was no delay.

"The funds are not the issue; hindi na-delay 'yung funds; the funds are there. But I did not want to release until I am very sure na ang pondong pupuntahan ay tama; tama ang program of work, at tama 'yung cost estimates," said Secretary Singson.

Secretary Singson also explained that the funds were realigned because of inaccurate data: "we did not have accurate data. 'Yung sinubmit nila ay napondohan na pala. So we have to realign and some were initiated by our own people, but many of them were initiated by the local politicians."

President Aquino also said that endeavors to clear the river would be continued but providing to the needs of the locals affected would be priority.

The President's Day: June 23, 2011

Today, the President graced the 113th Anniversary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) held at the DPWH Quadrangle at the Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

During the Program, President Aquino presided over the awarding of 25 DPWH retirees and 20 loyalty awardees* for the year 2011.

He also led the launching of the DPWH Call Center Hotline.

President Aquino, in his speech, lauded the DPWH for their efforts in taking part of the administration's plight to pave the way to a better Philippines.

The President said that in reviewing 86 contracts under the Post-Ondoy and Pepeng Short-Term Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project that amounted to P3.5 B and strongly enforcing bidding rules that generated P2.12 B in savings, the DPWH has indeed changed its image.

"Kung dati, ang tingin ng publiko sa mga binabakbak na daan ay gatasan lamang ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaan, ngayon, batid nilang ang bawat kalsadang sinisemento ay walang ibang ihahatid kundi ginhawa sa marami nating kababayan," President Aquino added.

He urged everyone to continue fighting against corruption.

"May natitira pa po tayong limang taon sa puwesto, at huwag niyo naman po sanang hayaan na matalo lamang ang mga Pilipino dahil sa redtape, kurapsyon at panlalamang," said President Aquino as he ended his speech.

Notes:

**The loyalty awards are given to those who have served under the DPWH for 40 years or more.*

The President's Day: June 24, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the launching of the Gawad Kalinga Center for Social Innovation (GKCSI)* Enterprise Movement held at Barangay Encanto, Bulacan.

In his speech, President Aquino stressed the government's efforts in creating an environment conducive for business. He said that the process for establishing a business was plagued with a barrage paper work. Now, under the new administration, the process was hastened; there are lesser documents to complete to encourage setting up businesses.

He reiterated GKCSI's goal of creating 500, 000 social entrepreneurs: "Ang layunin nitong makahubog ng 500,000—ulitin ko lang po, ha? Dahil bibilangin natin ito sa 2016—makabuo at makahubog ng 500,000 social entrepreneurs sa loob ng anim na taon (limang taon nalang po ang natitira) ay hindi lamang magbubunga ng kita sa mismong mga negosyante, kundi tulong din sa buong komunidad na maaaring sanayin at umasenso mula sa mga negosyo."

He thanked Mr. Tony Meloto, the founder of Gawad Kalinga, for continuing nation building programs such as these. He said that these efforts affirm the capability of the Filipino to engage and prosper in business. They are also proof of a community uniting to achieve a better Philippines.

He continued by encouraging the youth to dream big. He cited prominent people such as Tony Tan Caktiong of jollibee; Henry Sy of SM; Fred Yao who arranges direct flights from Shanghai to Puerto Princesa; and Don Emilio Yap who has built a prosperous business from selling surpluses. The people cited started small and are now revered in their respective fields.

The President ended his speech by assuring everyone of government's will and support in fulfilling dreams.

"Huwag kayong matakot mangarap, nasa likod po ninyo ang gobyerno para umagapay sa inyo.

Nandito ang ating administrasyon para tiyakin na sulit ang pagod ng masisipag na negosyante at hindi mabangkarote ang mga Pilipino," Said the President.

Notes:

** The Gawad Kalinga Center for Social Innovations (GKCSI) is a business ecosystem development initiative that aims to build a culture of entrepreneurship in the Filipino by engaging the GK network of supporters and partners; and by leveraging on the GK community platform.*

Its main objective is to build socially relevant and high-impact businesses. The central staging points are the GK communities, which act as the production and distribution platforms for globally competitive Filipino brands. The goal is to help establish productive, integrated, economically and socially sustainable communities through business development that will help end poverty for 5 million Filipino families by 2024.

The President's Day: June 26, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: June 27, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the inauguration of the Korea Electric Corp. (KEPCO) Power Plant held in Naga City, Cebu.

In his speech, President Aquino extended his gratitude to KEPCO for their contributions and continued support for the administration and confidence in the capabilities of the Filipino people.

He conferred the importance of electricity in relation to business saying that as business grows, production capacities and accommodations for visitors will follow and this is possible largely because of electricity.

He discussed the measures Visayas took in generating power in reasonable rates thus attracting more investors in their area.

“Now, Visayas can even afford to share excess power generating capacity to Luzon, which speaks volumes, again, of the progress we have all made,” the President added.

He continued by discussing the administration's actions in realizing production of energy without harming the environment through the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP). He said that though the KAPCO inaugural does not produce renewable energy, the institution complies with “the Clean Air Act and is very friendly to the environment.”

“I commend KEPCO for taking into consideration the effects beneficial to the environment in doing their business,” said the President.

President Aquino also shared that it is easy to be optimistic during inaugurations. Challenges follow thereafter. Consistent work must be poured into the company to ensure its success and service to the Filipino.

He related this moral to the present situation saying that “Many of us believe that our country must change for the better, but some of us do not realize that to achieve this change, we must put in the necessary work. We must earn it. If we want to give light to even the farthest barrios in the most far-flung provinces, then all of us must continue to translate optimism into action.”

“May this power plant serve as a reminder to us, then, that more than the energy we need to run our businesses, it remains necessary for us to tap into our own inherent energy and creativity—to continue fighting the good fight, and to tirelessly pursue a brighter Philippines as one Filipino people,” said the President.

The President's Day: June 29, 2011

Today, President Aquino welcomed the Officials of Sun Life Financial Inc. in a courtesy call held at the Music Room in Malacañan.

Present during the call were Chief Executive Officer Donald Stewart, Executive Vice President Thomas Bogart, President for Asia operations Dikran Ohannessian, and President and CEO for Philippine Operations Rizalina Mantaring.

In the afternoon, President Aquino and the members of the Cabinet gathered in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan for the Presentation of the proposed 2012 National budget.

The proposed budget amounted to P1.816 trillion which the President and the cabinet approved as a sign of the administration's commitment in providing for the Filipino people.

The approved proposed budget will be passed on to Congress once it reopens on July 25.

The President's Day: July 3, 2011

Today marked the first time that the Philippine national men's football team advanced to the 2nd round of World Cup Qualifiers. The Philippine Azkals bested the Sri Lankan Red Devils 5 – 1 in aggregate goals in a two-game match; the first held in Sri Lanka, the second held at the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium in Manila.

President Aquino, in a statement, lauded the team's success.

"I join our people in celebrating their 5-1 aggregate win over Sri Lanka. Truly, there is no place like home, as those gathered at the Rizal Memorial and who gathered before their TV sets today experienced," said the President.

He called on the Azkals to continue to inspire the Filipino and portray the message that unity and hard work can lead us to victories that extend far beyond the confines of football.

"I urge you to continue to bring our countrymen together and give them even more things to be proud of," President Aquino added.

The President wished the team the best of luck as the Azkals prepare for the second round of the qualifiers.

The President's Day: July 4, 2011

Today marked the 65th Philippine Republic Day. It was on this day that the United States of America recognized Philippine Independence and Manuel Roxas was inaugurated as the first President of the 3rd Republic of the Philippines.

Incidentally, Manuel Roxas II, the grandson of President Roxas, took his oath as Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

President Aquino, in an ambush interview, said Roxas' "first order of business is to organize the DOTC and have them produce one voice."

The President also asked Roxas to tackle anomalies concerning roll-on roll-off (RoRo) projects approved under the former administration, the LRT operations, and the service of the Bicol-bound Philippine National Railway (PNR) trains. He said that he might make a surprise visit on one of the trips to check on the PNR's quality of service.

Moreover, Amando Tetangco, Felipe Medalla, and Alfred Antono were inaugurated by the President as Central Bank Governor and members of the Monetary Board respectively.

After the Oath taking of the newly Appointed Officials, President Aquino witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Government, with Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles as representative, and the Cordillera Bodong Administration – Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CBA-CPLA) represented by Chairman Arsenio Humiding and Marcelina Bahatan, President of CPLAS's political wing.

In ceremonies held in the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of Malacañan, the event marked the end of over two decades of peace process.

"Sa araw pong ito, humahakbang tayo tungo sa katuparan ng isa sa mga pangunahing mithiin ng akin pong ina: ang makamit ang pambansang kapayapaan at pagkakaisa," said President Aquino in his speech.

He assured the people that he would continue his mother and father's journey for peace and persist spreading its light throughout the country.

He stated programs under the provision would involve support for documentation of CBA-CPLA's history and legacy.

"Sa paraang ito, tuluyan na po nating maisasara ang kabanatang ito ng ating kasaysayan; samantalang maibubukas naman sa pagbabalik-tanaw ng mga susunod na salinlahi," said President Aquino.

The Armed Forces would be open to the people of the group. Plans like skills training, job placement, community development projects, and income generating activities would also be in place for them.

"Lahat po ng mga proyektong ito, sasailalim sa ating Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan o PAMANA framework of community development, livelihood, employment, and subregional development," the President said.

He stressed the region's potential in becoming an economic force thus a Joint Committee was established to regularly monitor and evaluate the established programs and ensure their efficacy in producing results. Civil society organizations would also be involved in monitoring the projects especially their funds.

Furthermore, President Aquino stressed that this step that CPLA-CBA has taken is proof of response to the government's call of joining the voyage towards the true and rightful path.

“Ito po ang Pilipinas na pinangarap ng aking ina sa sambayanang Pilipino, at ngayon ay patuloy nating ipinaglalaban: isang lipunan kung saan ang kapayapaan at kaayusan ay hindi nadadaan sa pagtutok ng baril at armas; isang lipunan kung saan ang kapanatagan at kaginhawaan sa buhay ay hindi lamang para sa mayayaman at may pangalan; isang lipunan kung saan may boses ang bawat Juan dela Cruz at hindi lamang ang mga nakaupo sa pamahalaan,” said the President.

In the afternoon, the President graced the Heroes Hall in Malacañan for the National Forum of Parent Leaders Culminating Activity* and signing of the Oath of Commitment* of the Pantawid Pamilya’s two millionth beneficiary.

The event highlighted the signing which involved Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman and, the beneficiary, Ms. Sharon Hassan Dabbang, with President Aquino as witness.

In his speech, the President shared the beneficiary’s story; “ang kuwento po ni Tatah, ay kuwento rin ng marami pang pamilyang Pilipino—pamilya na ang mga miyembro ay itinutulog na lang ang pagkalam ng sikmura; dinadaan sa dasal ang karamdaman, apuyin man ng lagnat; at napapabuntong-hininga na lamang kung napipilitang patigilin sa pag-aaral ang kanilang mga anak.”

Through the program, the less fortunate is given financial support as leverage for them to have a chance to rise against their poverty.

“Hindi tayo namimigay ng pera: namumuhunan tayo sa kinabukasan ng Pilipino,” said President Aquino.

The President thanked the members and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilya for their efforts and cooperation in carrying out all agreements.

Notes:

** The forum is a venue for the parent leaders and beneficiaries to speak their minds, share their experiences, and suggest ways to improve the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilya. Its date is organized at a time that will allow the government to incorporate the suggestions of the parent leaders/beneficiaries for the fiscal year 2012.*

** The Oath of Commitment is the contract that each Pantawid Pamilya beneficiary signs upon registration into the program to signify their duty to comply with the conditions, which are anchored on health and education.*

The President's Day: July 5, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the 3rd Regional Conference of the Union Network International – Asia – Pacific Regional Conference (UNI-APRO) held at the Century Park Hotel Grand Ballroom in Malate, Manila.

President Aquino, in his speech, said that the administration's efforts to address labor concerns are to "make things better for labor in a responsible manner. And by better we mean turning working abroad into a choice, as opposed to the necessity that it has become for a lot of our countrymen."

"But we realize that we also have to do this responsibly: we have to balance interests; we have to make sure that the investors who give jobs to our people continue to operate here," added President Aquino.

Ultimately, according to the President, the vision is to create a future "where no one gets left behind—where everybody not only pulls his own weight, but also links arms with his fellow man so that everyone, from every part of the economic spectrum, moves forward on the road to progress."

He discussed measures that the administration took to address wage increase and job generation.

He stressed the efforts poured by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to equip the Filipinos with skills in industries with high labor demand; the Department of Labor and Employment's Initiatives in upgrading the government's job matchmaking system; and the joint efforts of both institutions in handling Filipinos abroad affected by the turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa.

"I am not disappointed with the progress we have made in the past year, but I will never be content until those working beyond our shores remain there by choice and not by necessity," said the President.

During the afternoon, President Aquino attended the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) celebration of its 113th Foundation Anniversary held at the DFA building's Bulwagang Mabini.

The President delivered a speech saying that he attended the DFA's event not only for celebration but to thank them since a huge part of the country's success is due to its relationships with other nations and the DFA has done an excellent job handling the country's international engagement. .

He said that the DFA has done good work in molding the nation's reputation. "Kung dati, puro batikos at kahinaan tungkol sa Pilipinas ang naka-headline sa mga banyagang pahayagan, ngayon po, sa pamumuno ng inyong Kalihim Albert del Rosario, nakakatanggap po tayo ng mga papuri mula sa ibang mga bansa," added President Aquino.

Also, according to the President, given the crisis in some countries inhabited by Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the DFA did not disappoint. The DFA handled negotiations well and responded to the call of Filipinos in need of aid.

The President's Day: July 12, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Kalibo, Aklan and Roxas City, Capiz to distribute social services that include supplementary feeding program checks; Philhealth cards; certificates for the conditional cash transfer, or Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps); social pension checks for indigent senior citizens, certificates of land ownership awards (CLOAs); and assistance for the agriculture sector.

In the Legaspi Gym in Kalibo, President Aquino delivered a speech highlighting government efforts in improving the country.

He discussed how the province of Aklan is actively involved in the government's antipoverty initiatives, pointing out its Senior Citizens program and support for the 4Ps, wherein 23,000 families from the province are enrolled.

The 4Ps, President Aquino said, is not about giving alms, but is a pact between the government and the Filipino family made to ensure children are healthy and in school and pregnant mothers have regular checkups.

"Ini-invest na natin 'yung susunod na salinlahi, 'yung susunod na mga henerasyon. Sila ho magkakaroon ng dagdag na kakayahan, dadagdag ang pagkakataon nila para umasenso ang kanilang kabuhayan," said President Aquino.

He said there are efforts ongoing to upgrade the airport in Caticlan so as to improve tourism in the area and create more opportunities for livelihood in the region.

In Capiz Gymnasium, Roxas City, the President also delivered a speech in which he briefly discussed the achievements the government attained on its first year.

He highlighted the 33,000 added PhilHealth beneficiaries from Capiz and the 14,000 families benefiting from the 4Ps. He again pointed out efforts on improving the Caticlan Airport to further boost tourism, as well as how the people of Capiz would benefit from this.

Right after addressing the crowd, President Aquino granted members of the press an interview.

Topics tackled were the withdrawal of Japanese support with the funding of the Panay River Basin Project, the assessment of the railway project in Panay Island, Zaldy Ampatuan's request of being state witness in the Maguindanao Massacre trial, funding from the PCSO, the candidates for Ombudsman, and the allegations against Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez's status as Customs chief.

The President's Day: July 13, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call by Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. and Party List Representatives in the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace.

Speaker Belmonte, in an interview, said that the call was made to give the Party List representatives a chance to interact with the President before the opening of Congress on July 25.

The President's Day: July 14, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the Terra Tent, Hotel Vida in the Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga for the 29th Biennial National Assembly of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

During the event, President Aquino was prayed over by the PCEC Congregation lead by Chairman Dr. Andrew Liuson. He was assured of the group's full support of the Aquino administration.

The President delivered a speech expressing his gratitude to the PCEC. He said the event showed that church and state may work together to push for change in society.

Although both driven by the desire to raise the country from its slump, President Aquino admitted that there are differences among choices taken by each entity. "Subalit sa mga pagkakataong may apat na milyong pamilyang Pilipino ang tila kinukulam sa pagkalam ang tiyan; sa mga panahong mala-epidemya ang pagkamatay ng mga kababaihan sa panganganak; at sa mga oras na para bang wala nang mga konsensya ang namamahala sa mga ahensya; nagtatagpo ang tinatahak na landas ng mga simbahan at pamahalaan," said President Aquino.

"Makakaasa kayong, sa ngalan ng pananagutan, pagmamalasakit at mabuting layunin sa kapwa, isinasapuso ng ating gobyernong gawin ang tama," he said.

Recent Government efforts, according to the President, include the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) with the PCEC aiding the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in its implementation; and the delivery of social services in Capiz and Aklan.

The President cited the PCEC because of its Philippine Relief and Development Services (PHILRADS); a program that responds to the need of people affected by tragedy.

At the end of his speech, President Aquino gave his assurance that the government would do everything it can for God and country.

After the event, President Aquino headed back to the Malacañan Palace where he welcomed, in the Heroes Hall, the kin of the victims of the Maguindanao Massacre, including Maguindanao Governor Toto Mangudadatu.

During the meeting, President Aquino assured them that he would exert all efforts to attain justice for the victims.

The President's Day: July 15, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over the ceremonial Awarding of Housing Units to the beneficiaries of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Bulacan and Laguna. During the occasion in the Bocaue Hills, Barangay Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan, President Aquino conducted an aerial inspection of the property which covered 30 hectares of land. He was briefed by National Housing Authority (NHA) General Manager Chito Cruz about the developments of the housing project in the area.

Together with Cruz were Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, local government officials led by Bulacan Governor Wilhelmino Alvarado and Bocaue Mayor Eduardo Villanueva Jr.

Also during his visit, President Aquino led the symbolic Turnover of Door Keys of Housing Units to the beneficiaries that represented the AFP and the PNP. He distributed 4,000 certificate of entitlement to lot allocation to the qualified beneficiaries.

In The Lake Breeze Residences, Barangay Looc, Calamba, Laguna, President Aquino delivered aspeech recognizing the efforts poured by the Military and the Police in keeping order and peace in the country. He acknowledged the hardships they go through especially with the limited resources and support from the government.

He stressed that the government recognizes their concerns and is creating programs like the housing projects to further provide aid in attaining life's simple necessities.

"Four-point-two (4.2) billion pesos nga po ang inilaan natin para sa pagpapatupad ng proyektong ito. At hindi po natin binungkal sa kung saang lupain ang perang ito; bunga po ito ng mabuting pamamahala natin sa GOCCs, na siya namang nagluwal ng 23.8 billion pesos," said President Aquino.

The President further said that this project was also proof of the various agencies in the government working hand in hand to better serve their country men.

He expressed his optimism with the project pointing out that the country indeed is on the journey to the true and rightful path.

"Ngayon, mahahawakan na ninyo ang susi sa isang panibagong pinto ng pagkakataon: susi sa mas panatag na pagseserbisyo-publiko; susi sa mas maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa inyong mga pamilya," said President Aquino.

He called on every Filipino to join the government in realizing the ambition.

In the afternoon, the President presided over the AFP Command Conference. He met with key Military Officials at the AFP General Head Quarters (GHQ) Conference hall in Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Matters tackled were the AFP modernization; financial and logistics management reforms; the implementation of the Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan; and projects funded by the Department of Energy (DOE).

The President's Day: July 16, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: July 18, 2011

Today, President Aquino presided over a series of meetings.

First, the President went to the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace for the Mid-year Budget Performance Review by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

He met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad to discuss the Screening Committee for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Yeosu; then, proceeded to the President's Hall in Malacañang for a dialogue with the Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) Foundation, Inc.

The President's Day: July 19, 2011

Today, the participants of the 6th Ambassadors, Consuls General, and Tourism Directors' Tour* paid President Benigno S. Aquino III a courtesy call in Malacañan Palace.

They met at Rizal Hall, where the President took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to his countrymen residing in the United States and Canada. "I—and the rest of our people—am proud of the success you have enjoyed in the U.S. and Canada. In fact, I hear that Filipinos in your countries are two of the top senders of overseas Filipino remittances. So this I believe is a well-deserved rest you are all taking," he said.

The President discussed the lack of attention afforded the tourism sector, and thus the decline of the Philippines as one of the world's best tourist destinations. "And we know this, which is why under our administration, the tourism sector is finally getting the attention it rightfully deserves," President Aquino said.

President Aquino enumerated the efforts the government has been taking to promoting the sector, which include the campaign to establish the Puerto Princesa Underground River as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature; the inauguration of the new Caticlan Airport; and endeavors in making aviation more free for tourists to have easier access to friendlier air fares and to more plane rides to more destinations. The Philippines' category 2 status given by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the banning of Philippine aviation in Europe are being handled, as well, he said.

Tourism is important, said the President, because it gives the Filipino people a chance for a better life: "Every person visiting this country means more opportunities for the cab driver who will bring them to their hotels, for the small entrepreneur who will sell them shirts or bracelets, for all the people who trained and dedicated their professional lives to making sure that a visit to the Philippines will be a comfortable and memorable one," he said.

"And it is my hope that just as we are proud of you for finding success in foreign lands, for showing the capabilities of the Filipino to the world—that you continue showing your pride for country as well," President Aquino told the guests.

Afterwards, President Aquino received another courtesy call from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) US-ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Strategy Commission.

The commission is an American initiative for substantive research and dialogue with Southeast Asian nations to further produce thoughtful policies between the two entities. Topics discussed during the meeting were U.S. and Philippine relations and the possibility of involvement of more ASEAN countries in the commission.

In the afternoon, the President presided over a meeting on the establishment of the National Coast Watch Council and the Coast Watch Center. It was held at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Note:

**The tour is a project of Philippine Foreign Service Officials in the United States in tandem with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).*

The President's Day: July 20, 2011

President Aquino spent his day in meetings in Malacañan Palace. One of the meetings tackled the issue of using “blood money” for convicted Filipino workers abroad.

The President's Day: July 21, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: July 22, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed His Excellency Archbishop Msgr. Guisepppe Pinto in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace to receive his credentials.

Archbishop Pinto is the newly-appointed Papal Nuncio* to the Philippines. He is the 15th Papal representative and 10th Apostolic Nuncio to the country.

After receiving Archbishop Pinto, President Aquino spent the rest of his day in meetings inside the Palace.

The President's Day: July 23, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: July 24, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: July 25, 2011

Today marks President Benigno S. Aquino III's second State of the Nation Address (SONA).

He started his day with a cabinet meeting in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, he proceeded to the House of Representatives, Quezon City via helicopter, where upon the invitation of Congress he will deliver his second State of the Nation Address. House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile received him. Upon arrival the President met with some legislators at Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) before finally heading to the Plenary Hall to deliver the address.

In his State of the Nation Address, the President highlighted the administration's achievements, presented government plans, and bared other anomalies that his government has uncovered.

For a second time around, he vowed to put an end to "wang wang"—though no longer the literal abusive use of sirens, but the very culture of abusing power and position.

Those who still think they can oppress the Filipino should think twice, said the President. *They will not succeed.*

"May mga nagsasabing pinepersonal ko raw ang paghahabol sa mga tiwali. *Totoo po*: Personal talaga sa akin ang paggawa ng tama, at ang pagpapanagot sa mga gumagawa ng mali—sino man sila," said President Aquino during his address.

"At hindi lamang dapat ako ang namemersonal sa usaping ito. Personal dapat ito sa ating lahat, dahil bawat Pilipino ay biktima nito," he added.

During his address, he announced the appointment of former Supreme Court Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales as the new Ombudsman. "Magkakaroon tayo ng tanod-bayan na hindi magiging tanod-bayad ng mga nagwawang-wang sa pamahalaan," he said. "Inaasahan ko nga po na sa taon na ito, masasampahan na ng kaso ang maraming nagkuntsabahan sa katiwalian, at naging sanhi ng situwasyong ating inabutan."

President Aquino also called on every Filipino to put an end to the culture of negativism: "Itigil na po natin ang paghihilahan pababa. Ang dating industriya ng pintasan na hindi natin maitakwil, iwaksi na po natin. Tuldukan na po natin ang pagiging utak-alimango; puwede bang iangat naman natin ang magaganda nating nagawa?" He encouraged everyone to give thanks to those who, through everyday sacrifices make life in this country better, may they be teachers, medical workers, or public servants.

The President in turn extended his gratitude to everyone who joined him on the straight and righteous path.

"Lumikha po kayo ng gobyernong tunay na nagtatrabaho para sa inyo. May limang taon pa tayo para siguruhing hindi na tayo babalik sa dating kalagayan. Hindi tayo magpapadiskaril ngayong napakaganda na ng resulta ng ating sinimulan."

The President's Day: July 26, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from United States Pacific Command Commander Admiral Robert F. Willard.

The President received the Admiral in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. Accompanying Admiral Willard were United States Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) Chief Cesar Garcia.

Also in the Music Room, President Aquino received Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Zvi Vapni. Ambassador Vapni paid the President a farewell call as his term of duty in the Philippines has ended.

This afternoon, President Aquino sat down with GMA Network broadcast journalist Jessica Soho in the President's Hall of the Palace for a one-on-one interview on the President's second State of the Nation address.

The President's Day: July 27, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the opening ceremonies of 2011 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, where the Department of Science and Technology held "Expo Science 2011," an exposition highlighting the DOST's High Impact Technologies and Services (HITS). National Science and Technology Week is celebrated every third week of July, as per Proclamation No. 169, s. 1993 to highlight the significant contributions of Science and Technology (S&T) to national development.

As part of the ceremonies, President Aquino led the presentation of awards to two outstanding researchers:

The *Julian A. Banzon Medal for Applied Research* was awarded to Lorenza Lirio-Gonzales of Benguet University, for her research and development work on Job's tears, a tall grain-bearing tropical plant, which has provided some communities in Benguet an alternative food and income source. The *2011 NSTW Outstanding Science Administrator (Dioscoro L. Umali) Medal* was awarded to Dr. Luis Rey Velasco, chancellor of University of the Philippines-Los Baños, under whose management the UPLB has made major investments in the development of its land endowments for income generation, such as the establishment of citronella plantation, rubber plantation and recently plans for alternative energy-generating projects and water impoundment facilities.

The President then conferred the Order of National Scientist* to Dr. Raul V. Fabella, PhD for his work in the field of Economics. Fr. Bienvenido Nebres of the Society of Jesus and former President of Ateneo de Manila was also proclaimed a National scientist today for his work in the field of Mathematics, although he was in Rome for a retreat during the awarding. The conferment of the new national Scientists were were authorized by the President through Proclamations No. 208 and 209, signed on this date.

After the launching ceremony, President Aquino gave his remarks.

"Patunay ang pagdiriwang na ito na ang taglay na pagkamalikhain ni Juan dela Cruz ay may makabuluhang mga bunga, at nakasentro ang kaniyang mga imbensiyon at inisyatiba sa pag-aangat ng antas ng buhay ng kaniyang mga kababayan," said the President.

He spoke highly of Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, who always gives him good news, he said, and enumerated some the DOST's achievements of late, such as laying out the plans for the establishment of a Philippine-developed monorail system; the invention of landslide sensors; the development of a telehealth system that accommodates Filipinos in far-flung areas; the invention of a cost-effective can-and-stick contraption that attracts mosquitoes and kills mosquito eggs, thus lessening the cases of dengue in the country; and so on.

"Nawa'y magsilbi kayong inspirasyon, hindi lamang ng mga kabataan, kundi ng lahat ng Pilipino. Sa kabila ng mas mayayamang oportunidad sa larangan ng agham at teknolohiya sa ibang bansa, pinili pa rin ninyong manatili dito sa ating bayan para unahin ang kapakanan at pagsulong ng inyong kapwa," said President Aquino.

Afterward, President Aquino returned to Malacañan Palace to administer the oath taking of newly appointed Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, a native of Paoay, Ilocos Norte, has 42 years of legal experience in the executive and judiciary, with interests in anti-corruption and human rights. She has served as Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Notes:

**The honorary title of "National Scientist" was established pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1003-A dated December 16, 1976. The President confers the award upon the recommendation of the NAST to scientists or distinguished individuals, or to collaborative teams for achievement in science and technology.*

The President's Day: July 28, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the joint opening of the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on Psychosocial Rehabilitation; the 27th Post-graduate Course, and 22nd Mid-year Conference, of the Philippine Psychiatric Association in ceremonies held at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

The joint conference focuses on the development of high awareness of mental health as a crucial determinant of a person's well-being, quality of life, and hope.

During his remarks, President Aquino said that though from different fields, the challenges faced by a psychiatrist and the President of the country have their similarities.

"I am not a psychiatrist. But I do see that there are some similarities between your jobs and mine, in that we are both trying to mend damaging attitudes," Said President Aquino.

"For the past years, our people had been mired in a damaging pessimism—the idea that government is not there to help them; and the idea that, no matter how hard they work, things will not change. This is the attitude we seek to change," said the President.

He said he wants the people to be empowered, and to change their mindset toward corruption—"from one that acknowledges it as a harsh reality, to one that expects the corrupt to be tried and put behind bars."

"These are the small psychic shifts we want our people to take," said President Aquino, "because however small they may be, they teach our countrymen once again how it is to hope."

The President said the joint conference's theme, "Reaching the Unreached: Islands of Hope" is apt, as the Aquino administration wants to attain what was previously thought to be unreachable: "We want to give livelihoods to all Filipinos, from those dwelling in the streets of Manila to those in ramshackle houses in far-flung provinces. We want a nation that is united by hope," said President Aquino.

This evening President Aquino attended the 25th Anniversary of the Philippine Star.

The President, in his speech, said this was a commemoration of the recovery of free speech 25 years ago during the People Power Revolution—the Philippine Star, along with many other new publications, was established five months afterwards.

Continuing this afternoon's theme, the President stressed how crucial the role of media is in society, given its capability to "contribute to the healing of our national psyche, , which has for so long been trodden upon—perhaps even coagulating into a false sense of collective insecurity."

"So it is not merely a negative attitude we are combating—it is the way many of our people see the world through a lens of negativity," the President added. "They had developed a sense of despondency. This is what we are here to change."

He took the opportunity to announce that his administration is in the process of drafting a freedom of information bill—a bill that would "balance legitimate needs for secrecy with the public's right to know."

This right to know, according to the President, "carries with it responsibilities—to use the information available in context; to present facts fairly; and to be conscious of some elements who may want to use the information not to inform the public, but to, rather, inflame them."

He assured them the administration is carefully studying the details of the bill to ensure service to the public interest without compromise.

He said once the bill is passed into law, the media would have access to more sensitive information. And “it is incumbent on you to use this access carefully and responsibly,” added the President.

“I hope you don’t view this as an attack on media—I simply want to give you a gentle reminder,” he continued.

He said he believes media can strengthen its partnership with government: “Partnership does not mean that we want media to be lap dogs of government; at the same time, media shouldn’t allow themselves to be used as attack dogs either. Media’s ultimate role is to be a watchdog—and I believe this is the balance we want to strike.”

The President's Day: July 29, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent his day presiding over a series of meetings; one of which was with the Department of Tourism (DOT). The DOT, received at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, presented to the President the Philippine National Tourism Plan for 2011 – 2016.

In the evening, President Aquino proceeded to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall for the Department of Justice Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking Testimonial Dinner.

The event presented a special citation to Atty. Darlene Pajarito and honors to 12 organizations dedicated to battling human trafficking.

Atty. Pajarito was awarded by U.S. State Department lead by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the “2011 Hero Acting to End Modern Day Slavery Award.” She was also included in the State Department's Ten Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Heroes; the only Filipino included in the list.

The President, in his address, recalled a line in his State of the Nation Address that a person who does wrong and left to go unnoticed implies invitation to pursue his wrongdoings. “Subalit, sa kabilang banda, ito rin po ang ating paniniwala: Kapag gumawa ng tama, may babalik sa iyong tama. Kapag nagpunla ka ng pagbabago, abot-kamay mo ang pagpitas ng mga bunga nito,” said President Aquino.

He lauded Atty. Pajarito and the individual agencies in support of the anti-human trafficking campaign.

“At katulad ng ating binibigyang-pugay ngayong gabi, wala ring balak na pumreno ang gobyerno sa tuloy-tuloy na pag-arangkada para sugpuin ang problemang ito. Patuloy tayong magsusulong ng mga hakbangin na magpapabuti sa kalagayan at kaligtasan ng pinakamahalagang yaman ng ating bansa: ang taumbayan,” President Aquino said.

Measures taken by the government, according to the President, are the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), the agency tackles conviction and prosecution of human traffickers in and out of the country; and the pursuance of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act through the help of concerned government agencies.

The President also shared that, every day, issues are brought out to make him lose composure. He said these things do not work; however, people in position who act as if they do not care about matters concerning their jobs anger him.

“Aakuhin mo iyong responsibilidad, gusto mo iyong poder, gusto mo iyong perks, pero pagdating ng aasahan ka, bakit ganyan, wala kang pakialam?” said President Aquino.

“Pag ako po’y nakaramdam ng ganoon, talagang napakalaki ng kailangan kong magawa para magtimpi,” he added.

The President ended his address by expressing his delight that every one present in the gathering cares about what they do.

“Kayo po ang nagtutulak na bumalik sila sa tuwid na landas. Sana po’y lalo kayong tumibay, lalo po kayo lumakas, lalo pong dumami ang inyong mga hanay, para naman talagang itong problema natin—lalo na sa trafficking—ay maging isang madilim na ala-ala na lang,” said President Aquino.

Later in the evening, the President released a statement concerning the slaying of seven soldiers in Sulu during an encounter with the rebel group, Abu-Sayyaf.

“I condemn these atrocities that are meant to put pressure on the peace process—to derail our efforts to counteract the causes of banditry, rebellion, and terrorism. Let me be very clear: those who want neither peace nor progress are the ones who perpetrated this dastardly act,” said President Aquino.

“Mark my words: to those of you who perpetrated this atrocity, know that you are now number one on my radar. It might take some time, but make no mistake about it: you will be brought to justice to answer for your crimes,” he added.

The President personally extended his sympathies and condolences to the relatives of the soldiers. “I have instructed Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin to ensure that every possible aid and assistance is given to the families of these brave soldiers who paid the ultimate price for the defense of our security and our freedom,” said President Aquino.

The President's Day: July 30, 2011

Today, the remains of Second Lieutenant Michael Baladad, Sergeant Desiderio Serdan, Jr., Corporal Ramsel Laynesa, Corporal Claro Lapasaran III, Corporal Freddie Castellano, Private First Class Juanito Evasco, Jr., and Private Nico Tinambunan – the seven Marines who fell in an encounter with the rebel group, Abu Sayyaf, in Patikul, Sulu – flew in to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

President Aquino proceeded to the airbase to pay his respects and lead the Heroes welcome for the seven soldiers.

The President's Day: July 31, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the Philippine Marine Corps Auditorium in Fort Bonifacio to attend the wake of the seven Marines who fell during an encounter with the rebel group, Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu last July 28.

The President condoled with the soldiers' families and relatives.

Assisted by Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Oban, Jr., Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Charge Rear Admiral Alexander Pama, and Philippine Marine Corps Commandant Major General Rustico Guerrero, President Aquino bestowed upon the soldiers' families the Gold Cross Medal for Gallantry in Action as honor for the soldiers' sacrifice.

The seven Marines were also promoted to the next higher rank; their families, receiving financial assistance, housing benefits, and scholarships for their children.

The Gold Cross Medal for Gallantry in Action is the second highest honor that can be bestowed upon a soldier in recognition for his/her sacrifice and efforts to uphold the law.

The President's Day: August 1, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was paid a courtesy call by former Tanzanian President and South Centre Board Chairperson Benjamin Mkapa.

The Mkapa-lead institution works on myriad issues that concern the global community and countries of the South.

He then attended meetings within Malacañan Palace, and headed to the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque for a mass in commemoration of his mother's, the late President Corazon C. Aquino, 2nd death anniversary.

In his brief message, the President said if there was one word that summarizes what his parents were for him, it would be constancy.

"No matter what travails you go through, no matter how impossible the situation you're found in, somehow just talking to either one or both of them produce such tremendous comfort in all of us," said President Aquino.

He thanked everyone who attended the solemnity. "There are those of you who have been with us even before it was called Tuwid na Landas and your constancy would definitely ensure that we get there rather sooner than later," said President Aquino as he ended his remarks.

The President's Day: August 2, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Bohol to preside over the following: the project briefing on the new Bohol Airport, the oath-taking of the Regional Peace and Order Council – Region 7 (RPOC-07) chairman, forum with the President, and the inauguration of the new Municipal Hall of Trinidad, Bohol.

The President departed from the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City and landed on the Tagbilaran Airport in Bohol. He then proceeded to the Bohol Tropics Resort for the new Bohol Airport project briefing, the oath-taking of the RPOC-07 Chairman Edgardo M. Chatto, and the forum with the President.

For the oath-taking ceremonies, the President was received by the following:

1.	Hon. Gwendolyn “Gwen”F. Garcia	—
2.	Hon. Roel “Roel” R. Degamo	—
3.	Hon. Orlando “Shane” A. Fua, Jr.	—
4.	Hon. Concepcion “Inday” O. Lim	—
5.	Dir. Pedro A. Noval, Jr.	—
6.	P/CSupt. Ager O. Ontog, Jr.	—
7.	Hon. Rosemarie “May” L. Imboy	—
8.	Hon. Efren M. Chatto	—

After ceremonies in the Bohol Tropics Resort, President Aquino continued to the new Trinidad Municipal Hall for its inauguration. The President was received by Hon. Roberto “Ondoy” C. Cajes and Hon. Francisco “Frank” U. Gonzales, the Trinidad Mayor and Vice Mayor, respectively.

President Aquino, during the occasion, led the unveiling of the hall’s marker. He was then taken for a tour of the hall and afterward, was ushered to the Trinidad Cultural Center for a program.

In his speech the President said it was always a delight to visit Bohol. “Kaya hindi na rin po siguro nakakapagtaka kung bakit tulad ko nananabik din ang maraming Pilipino, maging ang mga dayuhan, na magpabalik-balik dito po sa lalawigan niyo,” he said.

He expressed optimism with the new Municipal Hall saying it was a symbol of coordination between that local and national government. Another example of good coordination cited by President Aquino was the Business One-Stop Shop Program (BOSS) Program, partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). “Dahil nasa iisang bubong lang ang mga ahensiyang magpoproseso ng iba’t ibang lisensya—mapa-Business, Sanitary, Occupancy Permit, Zoning o Safety Inspection Certificate—mapapadali at isang bagsakan na lang po ang pagkuha ng mga ito,” said the President.

The President also shared updates about the Ro-Ro ports, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) savings, and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). He said Transportation and Communications Secretary Mar Roxas has investigated the 72 Ro-Ro contracts, the DPWH has increased their savings, and the number of 4Ps beneficiaries in Bohol has risen by 20, 000.

President Aquino assured everyone they now had a government willing to listen, cooperate, and serve. “Ang tanging pakonsuwelo na lang na hihilingin ko sa inyo, sa taumbayan: makipagtulungan kayo sa inyo pong pamahalaan at pamayanan. Hindi lamang ito para sa kaunlaran ng inyong lungsod ngunit para na rin sa buong bayan,” he added.

Upon his return to Manila, President Aquino went straight to the Function Room 5 of the SMX, Mall of Asia for the International Contact Conference and Expo 2011* hosted by the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP).

In his brief remarks, President Aquino assured the CCAP of the government's support in training the people for jobs that are in demand when they graduate. He congratulated the institution for the successful event and wished them the best.

The President's Day: August 3, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was paid a courtesy call by Miami Heat Head Coach Eric Celino Spoelstra in the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Spoelstra is the first Filipino-American head coach in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He is in the Philippines to promote the NBA FIT program, the NBA's health program that encourages wellness among children and families through physical exercise and choosing healthy options.

Also present during the call were Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, Rafael Lopa, and Philippine Airlines Executive Vice President Vivienne Tan.

Afterward, President Aquino attended the ceremonial handover of the petition to stop child trafficking in the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The President, in his speech, stressed the government's stand against child trafficking. "Allow me to tell you today that the Philippines stands behind your advocacies. We are, and we will continue to fulfill the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act to prevent human trafficking, and to provide protection and services to those who have already been victimized," he said.

President Aquino admitted it would be difficult given the myriad dilemmas presented by different sectors. "But each time I see the Filipino people commit themselves to getting this country back to its rightful place in the sun; each time I see our teachers, our students, our religious leaders, and our youth standing together under the banner of solidarity—I regain my optimism and my energy, and this job becomes, if not a little, sometimes a lot easier," he added.

He thanked everyone for their efforts to address the predicament. He expressed optimism that through joint endeavors of the government and private organizations, progress against human trafficking would indeed advance.

After, President Aquino engaged the media in a briefing, answering queries about the U.S. economy, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) incident, and measures in addressing class suspensions during typhoons.

President Aquino, in light of disaster management, said the Executive Secretary has met with the agencies concerned. A briefing on the flood control program will also take place next week, he said.

The President's Day: August 4, 2011

Today, marked the first time a Philippine President met with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chair since negotiations started 14 years ago.

President Benigno S. Aquino III, in an informal meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, was accompanied by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia, Budget and Management Sec. Florencio Abad, Finance Sec. Cesar Purisima, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Government of the Philippines (GPH) Peace Panel Chair Marvic Leonen.

While MILF Chair Al Haj Murad Ibrahim was joined by MILF base commanders and members of the Central Committee and negotiating panel.

The President's Day: August 5, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 6, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 7, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 8, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the Philippine National Police's (PNP) 110th Police Service Anniversary.

During the program, the President, assisted by PNP Chief Raul Bacalzo and Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, presented awards to 24 recipients.*

In his speech, President Aquino lauded the police forces for all their noble efforts. “Mula sa mga panahon ng digmaan hanggang sa mga nanggugulo pa rin sa umaayos na nating bayan; mula sa gumagawa at nagtatangkang gumawa ng krimen, hanggang sa pagragasa ng mga sakuna sa ating bayan, nandiyan kayo, handang ialay ang buhay para sa bayan,” said the President.

However, according to the President, anomalies have tainted the PNP's noble acts. “Sa tuwid na daan, ibinabalik na natin ang paggalang at pagtingala ng taumbayan sa inyong hanay. Nasa posisyon na tayo para muling itindig ang dangal ng ating kapulisan,” he said.

“Sa lahat ng inyong tapang at katapatan, nais ko pong ipaabot sa inyo na hindi lang po kayo ang nakatutok sa pangangailangan ng bayan. Nasa likod ninyo ang ating gobyerno para suklian ang inyong serbisyo,” President Aquino added as he assured the police constituents of the administration's support.

Government endeavors directed for the benefit of the PNP mentioned by the President include housing projects for police officers and the allocation of funds for the PNP's modernization.

“Ako po'y may ambisyon. Sa pagbaba ko po sa puwesto sa Hunyo 2016, mga apat na taon at labing isang buwan na lang po iyan, maiiwan ko po ang Kapulisan na talaga namang masasabing tunay na may tapang, tunay na may dangal—tinitingala ng buong sambayanan,” said President Aquino as he ended his speech.

After, the ceremony, the President headed to the PNP Non-Commissioned Officer (PNCO) Condominium 11 and led its inauguration. The President presided over the ceremonial unveiling of the PNCO marker and did an inspection of the condominium's model unit.

The President's Day: August 9, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III, accompanied by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) Chairman and President Edgar Chua and Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras , visited the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project Onshore Gas Plant in Shell Philippines, Tabangao, Batangas City.

The U.S. \$4.5-billion project is a joint endeavor of the National Government and private sector lead by the Department of Energy. The facility is developed and operated by Shell Philippine Exploration B.V. (SPEX) on behalf of joint venture partners Chevron Malampaya LLC and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) Exploration Corporation.

The project discovered a power source 80 kilometers northwest of Palawan. The power source, when extracted and further processed, could be used as fuel for three Batangas power plants and can provide up to 2,700 MW of electricity or around 25 percent of the installed capacity of the Luzon grid.

After, President Aquino granted the media an ambush interview. He answered queries about plans for the Taal Lake, classroom deficiencies, the controversial Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Art exhibit, credit ratings in the U.S., and the Malampaya Project in relation to territorial disputes with China.

Regarding the CCP exhibit, The President said he made his position clear. He said there is no trouble with expression provided that that right be used to ennoble the public instead of disrespecting its belief.

He further explained, in light of territorial issues, that the Philippines is merely utilizing what it has: "Pero ang punto nga rin nito, kung hindi natin pahahalagahan iyong atin ay puwede pong mawala iyong atin."

After his Batangas visit, the President went back to Manila to preside over meetings.

The President's Day: August 10, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III sent off the participants of the Learning Workshop on the Legislative Process, Lobbying, and the Human Rights-based Approach to Legislation and Policy Development in ceremonies held at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The workshop, organized by the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) in collaboration with the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council Secretariat, the Commission on Human Rights, and the United Nations Development Program, aims to bolster the Legislative Liaison Service and manage legislative priorities and sector-based concerns with respect to their agencies in Congress. It will underscore legislative and policy-making frameworks in light of the human rights-based approach.

President Aquino, in his speech, stressed the directive of government service as serving the people. He shared Article XXI Subsection 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights quoting a passage that states “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government.”

“That is precisely why we are here; why we are meeting here today. There are so many laws crafted for so many vested interests that unfortunately redounded to the suffering, the downgrading of the living standards of the vast majority of our populace,” he added.

President Aquino said they need focus: “a focus that all legislation should be beneficial to all people or all our peoples, preferably all of the time.”

He said they needed to work extra hours to prove that the envisioned Philippines can be attained. He said they needed to show the people “that if they work hard, they can go home to full plates on their dining tables, in houses of their own; that if they toil, there is the assurance of quality health care; that if their children work hard in school, they will be aptly equipped with the skills they need to succeed in life.”

“We have made good progress in these areas, but as I have said countless times before, we still have a long way to go,” said the President. He stressed the success of the administration is dependent on the cooperation of Congress. Examples of these successes are the bill synchronizing the ARMM elections, the GOCC Governance Act, measures for the less fortunate to access more affordable electricity, sparing women night-workers from applying for exemptions, the bill requiring government to provide free immunization for vaccine-preventable diseases to children under five years old, and the bill requiring all state agencies to release retirement benefits within 30 days after an employee retires.

The workshop, according to President Aquino, is expected to provide critical lobbying and advocacy skills that would enable the participants to use relations with Congress to energize the bureaucracy and improve the way the people are served. “We will be sending them bills on a regular basis, and we need to make certain that they understand the importance of the measures we will be proposing,” he said.

The President called on the participants to participate and contribute to the workshop with the people in mind: “They are depending on us to win back their hopes and aspirations; they are depending on us to allow them to achieve their greatest potentials. Let us not let them down. Failure, definitely, is not an option.”

Also present during the ceremony were Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, Jr., Presidential Legislative Adviser Antonino Roman, United Nations Resident Representative Jacqui Badcock, and Human Rights Commissioner Loretta Ann Rosales.

The President's Day: August 11, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the State Necrological Service in Honor of National Scientist Dr. Fe del Mundo. He conferred the Order of the Golden Heart with rank of Grand Collar* to del Mundo during ceremonies held at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) compound in Bicutan.

The President, in his speech, commemorated del Mundo's successes. According to the President, by being the first Filipino, Asian, and woman to enter Harvard Medical School, she broke the boundaries of her gender and proved that the Filipino can succeed even in the international scene.

She chose a noble path, said President Aquino: "Nagpakadalubhasa man sa ibang bansa, pinili pa rin niyang bumalik at maglingkod sa sariling bayan."

"Hindi niya hinangad na magpakayaman at kumapit sa kapangyarihan; tanging ang kapakanan at kalusugan ng mga bata at pamilyang Pilipino ang kanyang tinutukan," he added.

President Aquino hoped del Mundo's life would inspire people; may they follow del Mundo's dedication and help raise the Filipino. "Sa ganitong diwa ng pagkalinga at pag-aruga sa kapakanan ng kapwa, lagi't laging mabibigyang-buhay at hindi maglalaho ang pamana ng ating Grand Dame of Philippine Pediatrics and Medicine," he said.

After paying his last respects to del Mundo, President Aquino headed back to Malacañan Palace to preside over a series of meetings.

Also, President Aquino issued today Proclamation No. 234 declaring August 30, 2011 as a regular holiday throughout the country in observance of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Ramadhan) and Executive Order (EO) No. 53. EO No. 53 amended Executive Order No. 275 issued in 1995, which created the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC). The new order allowed President Aquino to reorganize the CSPC gearing them to monitor and coordinate with investigations and prosecutions of cases concerning the violation of the Anti-Child Abuse Act and other child-related criminal provisions and to allow them to formulate programs as well.

Notes:

Dr. Fe del Mundo was also the first woman to head a government hospital and the first Filipino diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics. She is known for her researches with viral diseases that served as basis for immunizations and vaccines in the country.

** The Order of the Golden Heart was established in 1954 by the late President Ramon Magsaysay to recognize "those who have rendered distinguished services or given noteworthy monetary or other material aid, encouragement to the campaign for the amelioration and improvement of the moral, social, and economic conditions of the Filipino masses, and for volunteerism in the service of the Filipino masses."*

The Grand Collar (Maringal na Kuwintas) is the highest rank in the Order. The first conferment of this rank was on the great humanitarian Hellen Keller on May 20, 1955.

The President's Day: August 12, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the International Youth Day Celebration held at the SMX Mall of Asia Convention Center in Pasay City.

The celebration, coinciding with the International Year of the Youth, is organized by the MDG Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Work for Filipino Youth. The event will serve as venue for presenting significant employment and migration priorities to President Aquino.

In his speech, President Aquino addressed the youth saying that one day, they will be the leaders and champions of their own causes and industries; they will “manage and inspire others into moving toward one direction to achieve a common goal.”

“By then, the important questions in your lives will no longer be: ‘Why is my crush taking so long to reply to my text?’ or ‘What do I do when my mother adds me on Facebook?’” said the President as he humored his audience.

“Many years from now, when you have grown wrinkles on your faces, perhaps one of you will be on this podium, delivering a speech to the most brilliant minds of the next generation,” President Aquino said.

“I am telling you now: it will happen one day, and you must prepare yourselves for the responsibilities that will inevitably rest on your shoulders,” he added.

According to the President, the government plays a very important role in the lives of the youth. It has to prepare and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to confront the challenges the future may bring.

He discussed the government efforts geared for their benefit. He mentioned the Department of Education’s (DepEd) K + 12 program and classroom building projects; the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Conditional Cash Transfer Program, which requires the beneficiaries to keep their children in school; the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority’s (TESDA) Training-for-Work Scholarship Program; the Department of Labor and Employment’s (DOLE) Youth Education – Youth Employability (YE-YE) project and the online portal for skills and job matching site, Phil-JobNet; and the Commission on Higher Education’s (CHED) moratorium on the opening of new programs in nursing, business administration, education, hotel and restaurant management, and information technology for 2011 – 2012.

The President said the government is doing all these because it is worth it: “It is worth it if we can give our youth the knowledge, the opportunity, and the quality of life they truly deserve. It is worth it if we can create enough opportunities for success here so that the most brilliant of our people, should they decide to work overseas, do so not out of necessity but rather as a choice. It is worth it if we can build a Philippines we can all be proud of.”

“I am calling on you not only to harness the positive energy that is prevalent in our country again, but also to contribute to it: by extending to others compassion and gratitude, and by always being responsible for the effects your actions have on others,” said the President as he ended his speech.

After the event, President Aquino made an unscheduled visit to the JobStreet Job Fair, which was also held at the SMX Convention Center. The President strolled through its grounds as he observed the event and greeted those participating.

In the afternoon, President Aquino welcomed the members Cobra Philippine Dragon Boat Federation at the Heroes of Malacañan Palace.

The Philippine Dragon Warriors came back after a successful campaign in the 10th International Dragon Boat Federation World Championships held in Tampa Bay, Florida. The team captured five gold medals and two silver medals, breaking world records in the process.

The team paid the President a courtesy call where they presented a paddle signed by the team's members as a representation of their successful participation in the tournament. The President, in return, presented the Presidential Citation in recognition of the team's triumph.

President Aquino also received Sir Gordon Yung Sheung Wu, Founder and Chairman of the Hopewell Group in the Malacañan Music Room before proceeding to the Aguinaldo State Dining Room for a full Cabinet meeting to discuss bill priorities that would be brought up with the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) on August 16.

The President's Day: August 13, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 14, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 15, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 16, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III convened the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), wherein he presented 13 priority measures for inclusion in the administration's legislative agenda.

The LEDAC meeting was held at Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

This was the 112th LEDAC meeting. The first LEDAC meeting under the Aquino administration was held last February 28, 2011, wherein the President presented 23 priority bills.

The Senate delegation included Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, Senators Franklin Drilon, and Ralph Recto; from the House of Representatives were House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr., Deputy Speakers Lorenzo Tañada III, Pablo Garcia and Jesus Crispin Remulla, Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, Minority Leader Edcel Lagman, Senior Deputy Majority Leader Janette Garin, Deputy Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas, and Representatives Joseph Emilio Abaya, Enrique Cojuangco, Hermilando Mandanas, and Rodante Marcoleta. After convening the LEDAC, the President, Senate President, and the Speaker of the House held a press conference.

Also, the President issued today Proclamation No. 238 declaring the period of 5 to 9 September 2011 as *Production and Operations Management Week*.

The President's Day: August 17, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and interviews.

The President's Day: August 18, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: August 19, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to Baguio City to attend the *Switch-on of Public Lighting* held at Baguio City's Burnham Park Complex.

The event is part of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (PEEP), a venture covered by a loan agreement signed between the Philippine Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with the Department of Energy (DOE) as the implementing and executing agency. The project aims to reduce electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emission.

Before proceeding to the event, the President made a surprise visit to the Tree Top Adventure and Zip Line at Camp John Hay. President Aquino's, together with some of his Cabinet Secretaries, visit would heighten tourism in the Cordilleras, principally in Baguio City.

During the starting of the Switch-on of Public Lighting ceremonies, President Aquino, in a brief message, underscored the importance of maintaining the top tourist spots in Baguio City. He shared his recollection of Burnham Park's "glory days" and stressed that the younger generations should be able to experience Burnham Park as he did.

He also mentioned government projects in improving roads to Baguio to lure more tourists into the area.

He specifically thanked Bishop Carlito Cenzon for being the driving force to make the national government understand how to help Baguio achieve its reverend status as the *Summer Capital of the Philippines* and the Asian Development Bank for providing the grant for the project.

President Aquino presided over the Switch-on of Public Lighting. He was assisted by Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras.

The President's Day: August 20, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers

The President's Day: August 21, 2011

Today marked the 28th death anniversary of Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the Atrium of SM Mega Mall to attend the opening of a Photo Exhibit titled *Ninoy, My Hero*. The exhibit was conducted in commemoration of the late Senator Aquino's death anniversary.

President Aquino delivered his remarks recollecting memories of his father. He said he remembered his uncle's, Len Oreta, story of their trip to Taipei. According to the President, his uncle said, during the trip, Senator Aquino received a call that threatened him of death if he returned to the Philippines.

He came back, said President Aquino. "Kahangahanga po 'yung nakaya niyang gawin."

"Siya po ay isang ordinaryong tao," he added. "Pero namili ho siya ng landas at pinili niya ang isang landas na kung saan mahaharap niya ang kanyang sarili at masasabing tumutong siya sa lahat po ng ating mga kababayan."

"Tulad nung ginawa nila noong araw kinuha po nila 'yung kinabukasan nila at tadhana nila sa kanilang mga kamay. Bakit hindi natin kayang gawin ito? Mas marami na ho tayo ngayon, mas malaya na natin magawa 'yung kanilang pinaggagawa nung araw. Pero ngayon po kailangan mangako na tayo sa susunod na salinlahi—tatapusin na natin itong laban na ito," said the President as he ended his remarks.

President Aquino also granted the media an ambush interview. He answered queries about the White Westinghouse deal, the next Tourism secretary, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

President Aquino, in light of the White Westinghouse deal, said the administration is venturing into converting the structure to a Coal or Gas Power Plant to help lower the price of electricity.

With regard the next Tourism secretary, the President relayed that he will not reveal his chosen appointee. "He needs time to study up on everything, all of the issues that they have done, the programs, the proposals and the things that Secretary Bert Lim will be leaving," he said.

And with the MILF inquiry, President Aquino said the MILF has expressed publicly that they are attending to the issue on Umbra Kato.

The President's Day: August 22, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day presiding over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 23, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Pier 13, South Harbor in Manila to lead the arrival ceremony of the newly acquired Navy ship, the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* Hamilton Class-cutter.

In his speech, the President said that the purchase of the new ship was a symbol of country's efforts in safeguarding and defending its interest. It is, as well, a reflection of the Philippines' venture into delivering genuine reform in its armed forces.

"Makakamtan natin ang mga ito dahil sa ating matinong pamamahala; mabibili natin ito nang bago at sa tamang presyo, at gagamitin natin ang mga ito para paglingkuran ang mamamayang Pilipino," he said.

Following the arrival ceremony of the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*, President Aquino proceeded back to Malacañan Palace to welcome Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines Menashe Bar-on. In ceremonies held at the Palace's Music Room, Ambassador Bar-on presented his credentials to the President to start his tour of duty in the country.

Afterward, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers.

This evening, the President was paid a courtesy call by former United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. President Aquino toured Blair around the Palace and dined with him at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President's Day: August 24, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received courtesy calls from the International Olympiad Winners and Ernst & Young Chairman James Turley.

In the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, President Aquino welcomed Chiang Kai Shek College's Henry Jefferson Morco, Capiz National High School's Angeli Joyce Dy, and Philippine Science High School's (Diliman) Miguel Arnold Reyes. Morco and Dy are bronze medal winners of the 2011 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) and 4th Grand Award of the 2011 Intel International Science, respectively; while Reyes is the bronze medalists of the 2011 International Physics Olympiad and the 2nd Grand Award winner of the 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Accompanying Morco, Dy, and Reyes was Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo.

In the afternoon, President Aquino received Ernst & Young* Chairman James Turley and the other company officials in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

With the President were Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Also, during the day, President Aquino administered Juan Romeo Nereus "Neric" Acosta's* oath of office as the Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection.

Notes:

** Ernst and Young is one of the largest professional services organizations in world. It provides assurance, tax, advisory services and transactions. It currently serves 140 countries.*

** Acosta is a member of the Liberal Party of the Philippines (LP) and a former first district of Bukidnon representative. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Acosta sponsored major legislations on clean water, solid waste management, and biodiversity protection, including the Clean Air Act.*

The President's Day: August 25, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 27, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 28, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: August 29, 2011

Today, the country commemorates National Heroes Day.

President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City to lead the program prepared for the event.

The President delivered a speech honoring the Filipino heroes who fought for the country.

“Subalit may mga bayani din tayo, na sa kabila ng napakahalagang papel na ginampanan sa kapayapaan at kaayusan sa bansa, ay naisantabi at tila kinaligtaan ng kasaysayan—mga sundalong hindi nabigyan ng hustong pagkilala,” said President Aquino.

“Ngunit hindi man naibantayog sa kasaysayan ang kanilang mahalagang kontribusyon, hindi ito hadlang para bigyan sila ng pantay na pagkilala ng lipunan,” he added.

The President also thanked the Filipino veterans for their contributions and assured them of further support from the government. He acknowledged the members of the Philippine armed forces imparting the administration's endeavors in upgrading military weapons and facilities. “Tinutupad na natin ang ating pangarap na kapag sinabing sundalong Pilipino, kinikilala at iginagalang ng buong mundo,” he said.

President Aquino further posed a challenge to the Filipino people: “Isang paraan po natin ito upang lalo pang tumatak sa ating mamamayan ang halaga ng pagsisikap at sakripisyo ng ating mga bayani, araw-araw itong isabuhay, upang huwag na nating maulit pa ang mga kamalian ng nakaraan.”

“Ang kailangan po natin ay bayanihan nina Juan at Juana dela Cruz. Kailangan natin ng mga nakikilahok sa solusyon ng mga problema,” he said.

“Hindi na natin kailangan pang magbuwis ng buhay o magpadanak ng dugo para lamang maging bayani. Ang kailangan lang natin ay ang wagas at bukal na pagtulong sa kapwa Pilipino,” the President added.

As part of the program, the President laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The said Tomb is located at center of the cemetery and was constructed in remembrance of the nameless Filipinos who gave their lives for the country.

The month of August is significant for President Aquino. It was on this month that his mother former President Corazon C. Aquino, and his grandfather Benigno Aquino Sr. died. His father former Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr. was assassinated on this month.

National Heroes Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of August of every year. This year, by virtue of Presidential Proclamation no. 84 s. 2010, the observance of the event was moved today, a Monday.

The President's Day: August 30, 2011

Today President Benigno S. Aquino III released his message to the Filipino Muslim community as they celebrate *Eidul Fitr*, the feast day that marks the end of *Ramadhan*.

"Faith and patience being among the important virtues in Islam, they are reflected in Ramadan and further celebrated in *Eidul Fitr*," the President said in his message.

"I urge you to remain firm in your resolve to help us enliven the daylight of renewal in our nation," President Aquino said. "I commend your resilience in surpassing the test of your devotion to the Almighty. May this event signify another year of meaningful and peaceful relations in your community and among all Filipinos."

In the evening, President Aquino headed to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) for his departure for a state visit in the People's Republic of China.

In his departure statement, President Aquino said the state visit was upon the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao. He affirmed that the Philippines values its relationship with the Chinese government. "Sagisag ang pagbisita nating ito sa pagnanais nating mapabuti pa ang ating pagkakaunawaan at mapaingting pa ang ating ugnayang-panlabas," he said.

The aim of the visit, according to President Aquino, is to further strengthen Filipino-Chinese relations. "Hindi po natin palalampasin ang pagkakataon na makipagpulong sa mga negosyante sa Tsina upang hikayatin pa silang mamuhunan sa ating bansa," he said.

Furthermore, President Aquino said he will be visiting fellow Filipinos working in Beijing. He said he will be bringing news of progress to the Philippines. "Bahagi po nito ang pagpapanumbalik sa pagtingala at pagrespeto ng ibang bansa sa Pilipinas, upang saan mang dakong mundo tayo tumungo, taas-noo nating maipagmamalaki na tayo ay Pilipino—handang makipagsabayan sa anumang larangan," said the President. "Bumabangon na po ang Pilipinas, buhay na buhay na ang kompiyansa ng ating ekonomiya at mga mamamayan tungo sa tuloy-tuloy nating pag-asenso at pag-abot ng ating mga pangarap."

At 6:00 p.m., the President boarded Philippine Airlines Special Commercial Flight PR001 bound for Beijing. He arrived at the VIP terminal of the Beijing International Airport and was received by Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin. For the night, he stayed at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The President's Day: August 31, 2011

Today marked the first day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's state visit to the People's Republic of China. He arrived last night and will be staying until Saturday, September 3, 2011.

This morning he attended a series of meetings with the officials of the State Grid Corporation of China Corporation (SGCC), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Energy World Corporation (EWC), China Trend Investment Limited, China Investment Corporation (CIC), and the Chinese investors, contractors, and consultants congregated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). The President talked to the representatives of these organizations about further investing in the Philippines. Among the industries covered are infrastructure, shipping, energy generation, mining, agriculture, and tourism.

Afterward, President Aquino attended the Philippines-China Economic Trade Forum held at the China World Hotel, but not before a brief meeting with Vice Premier Wang Qishan, the Chinese Government's representative for trade shows and chief economic negotiator in trade proceedings with the United States. In the President's remarks, during the forum, he underscored the Philippines' improved business culture.

"Your interest in the Philippine economy goes to show that my people's newfound optimism spills over to our neighbors here in China," said President Aquino.

"We have made the registration of business names a lot more convenient for businesses. Our Department of the Interior, together with our Trade Department, has also been working with Mayors, Governors, and other local government officials to harmonize local statutes with national laws to make it easier for businesses to operate," he added.

However, the President said the most important among the government's efforts "is instilling a culture of transparency and integrity in government: weeding out corruption, and ensuring that businessmen are met with a level playing field."

Profits from the Philippine national economy, according to President Aquino, are being channeled to infrastructure development and welfare programs for the people; empowering them as consumers, thus enabling growth of businesses.

"The rules will not be circumvented and the law will be followed, creating an environment that is stable and predictable—and therefore, one that is conducive to profit," he said.

President Aquino called on his audience to "ride on this wave of optimism." "I look forward to welcoming your investments into the Philippines. Let me declare once again: the Philippines is indeed open for business," he said.

In the afternoon, President Aquino attended a welcoming ceremony hosted by the Chinese government and held at the Great Hall of the People, after which he met with the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao. During the bilateral meeting, they talked about strengthening Filipino-Chinese relations, and witnessed the signing of bilateral agreements. After, President Hu Jintao hosted a State Banquet for President Aquino and his official delegation.

Also during the day, President Aquino granted Mr. Yang Rui an interview for CCTV's daily current-affairs talk show, *Dialogue*. Furthermore, he treated with the Filipino Community in Beijing, and attended a dinner hosted by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines and State Grid Corporation of China Corporation.

In the evening, President Aquino convened with the Philippine media to discuss the day's events.

The President's Day: September 1, 2011

On the morning of first day of September, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the Great Wall of China. He left the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse of Beijing at around 7:30 a.m. The Wall was an estimated hour's trip away.

The President was welcomed and toured by the officials of the *Badaling Special Administrative Center* led by Deputy Director Mr. Rong Xinfeng.

After the tour, they asked the President to sign a VIP guestbook and requested for a short written message. They also gave him three mementos with which to remember his visit: a book featuring 400 foreign state and government leaders who visited the landmark over the past 57 years; a gold-plated photo of the Great Wall, and a certificate attesting to the President's visit.

Afterward, President Aquino visited the Forbidden City—the home of emperors and the ceremonial and political center of the Chinese government for 500 years. At present, it functions as the Chinese Palace Museum, a popular tourist destination. After touring the Forbidden City, President Aquino returned to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

In the afternoon, the President attended meetings with officials from Lee World, China-Asean Investment Cooperation Fund (CAF), Dong Feng Motor Corporation (DFM), Shandong Sanli Tire Manufacturer Company, Ltd., and Dunfeng Holdings, Inc. The meetings were held at the Guesthouse.

During the meetings the President encouraged investments in the Philippines' shipping, renewable energy, and mining industries. Intended partnerships for the establishment of infrastructure projects, the creations of a sedan assembly hub, a tire manufacturing facility, and a nickel-processing industrial park in Iloilo were also discussed.

At mid-afternoon, President Aquino left for the Great Hall of the People, where he met with Chairman Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC)—the highest organ of state power in China, and legislative body of the state.

Afterward, the President went to Zhongnanhai, a compound near the Forbidden City which functions as the central headquarters for the Communist Party of China. There he met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

At 6:00 p.m., President Aquino boarded Philippine Airlines special commercial flight PR001 (B777-300ER) for Shanghai, where more engagements are scheduled for the next day.

The President arrived at Shanghai's Hongqiao International Airport at around 8 p.m. He stayed the night at the Pudong Shangri-La Hotel.

The President's Day: September 2, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III wakes on his first day in Shanghai during his state visit.

09:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. The President received a courtesy call from Shanghai officials; Communist Party of China (CPC) Secretary Yu Zhengsheng, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Committee and Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The President attended the Philippine-Eastern China Business Forum where he delivered a speech sharing news of renewed political and business culture in the Philippines: “we are sending a signal to the whole world: in the Philippines, the rules are followed. In the Philippines, we have a level playing field. In the Philippines we are open for business: the clean, fair, and honest kind.”

President Aquino said ensuring such customs meant “undoing the mistakes of the past.” The government has reviewed and abolished contracts entered in to without concern for due process. Measures have even been taken to hold public officials accountable for the anomalies they were part of. “We want to send the message that our government will neither tolerate nor take part in these kinds of practices,” he said.

He said the efforts poured in crafting this kind of culture has resulted to the Philippine stock market hitting all time highs seven times; having four credit upgrades in a year’s time compared to only one upgrade and six downgrades in the previous nine years; and being on target with social service commitments and project funding without raising taxes in the past year.

He said partnership between China and the Philippines would only lead to mutual gains. China and the Philippines’ long history would attest to this. “Like the sampans, junks and galleons of long ago, Filipinos and Chinese have weathered the storms of history,” he said. “It is up to us, now, to increase our mutual understanding to unleash the great potential for partnerships between yourselves and us.”

President Aquino also witnessed the consecutive signing of the Memoranda of Understanding of Luen Thai, Jiangsu Huaihai Construction Group, and Jiangsu Hanzhong Construction Group with their respective Filipino counterparts.

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The President met with officials of the Jin Jiang Group, the Liwayway Corporation, and Mr. Edgar Sia II of *Mang Inasal*.

The Jin Jiang Group will enter into a Franchising Agreement with a new company to be formed by Liwayway Marketing Corporation (LMC) and Mr. Sia for the establishment of a budget hotel chain in the Philippines using the brand “*Jin Jiang Inn*.”

President Aquino, together with Philippine officials, also witnessed the signing of the Licensing Agreement between the companies.

02:00 p.m. – 02:15 p.m. The President met with officials from Luen Thai, a manufacturing company that has close partnerships with brands and retailers globally, including Adidas, Dillard’s, Esprit, Fast Retailing, Limited Brands, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Targus, among others.

Luen Thai has selected the Philippines among its other locations as the best venue for the expansion of its manufacturing and shipping facilities.

02:15 p.m. – 02:30 p.m. The President met with officials from Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider.

02:40 p.m. – 02:55 p.m. The President met with officials from the HNA Group, a large corporation whose core business is air transportation. The group also covers industries such as tourism and service, airport management, logistics, hotel management, retailing, finance, and other related businesses.

HNA Group, through the Hainan Airlines Company Ltd., is prospecting opportunities in the aviation and tourism industries of the Philippines.

04:15 p.m. – 05:15 p.m. The President visited Liwayway Corporation, the biggest Philippine company in China and the owner of the brand “Oishi Prawn Crackers.”

06:30 p.m. – 07:30 p.m. The President met with the Filipino community in Shanghai. It may be noted that the President won in Shanghai during the overseas absentee vote count for the 2010 National and Local Elections.

07:45 p.m. – 09:00 p.m. The President joined the members of the Philippine business delegation for a dinner at the Grand Tower, Pudong, Shangri-la Hotel.

The President's Day: September 3, 2011

Today marked President Benigno S. Aquino III's last day of his state visit in China.

8:30 a.m. The President departed Shanghai for Xiamen via Philippine Airlines Special Commercial Flight PR001. He landed at the *Xiamen Gaoqi Airport*. From there, the President headed to the *Yeohwa Hotel* to respond to a courtesy call paid by Fujian and Xiamen officials.

11:00 a.m. The President arrived at the *Yeohwa Hotel*. He was received by Communist Party of China (CPC) Provincial Committee Secretary Madame Sun Chunlan* and the provincial officials and local leaders from Fujian's prefectures, such as Xiamen and Zhangzhou.

11:30 a.m. The President attended the Philippines-Fujian Business Conference where he underscored the country's improved business culture and ways of doing business.

During his remarks, the President shared with those present that his family's roots came from the Fujian Province. "Our family is not alone in finding ancestral ties to this province: 85 percent of Chinese-Filipinos can trace their roots back to Fujian," he added.

"For half a millennium now, our rich cultural ties have been, fundamentally, economic ties," he said. "These ties of trade are what we seek to expand today, especially since the Philippines is once again open for business."

He said with China being one of the world's fastest growing economies, China would need to import resources to sustain its growth. He said the Philippines would be a sound choice to expand partnerships given its location and governance acclaims from rating institutions.

"I have been highly encouraged by the cordial, cooperative reception I have been given by the government of the People's Republic of China during my State Visit," said President Aquino.

"I encourage all of you to get to know those you are seated with. Perhaps you may even reconnect with a distant relative, or find a potential partner in business," said President Aquino. "It is my hope that the spirit of achievement of the past will be demonstrated again: this time, in a new generation of entrepreneurs and corporations from China, who will invest in the Philippines for the benefit of Filipinos and Chinese alike."

The conference was co-organized by the government of Fujian and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII).

2:40 p.m. The President visited Hongjian Village in Zhangzhou, Fujian Province. He lighted incense at the ancestral temple of the *Xu (Co) clan*. He viewed the *araucaria tree* planted in 1988 by the late former President Corazon C. Aquino, as well.

Also, President Aquino engaged in a tree planting activity. After, he delivered a message expressing gratitude of the honor continuously given to his mother, the late President Corazon Aquino 23 years ago during her visit. "I was particularly happy to hear that the soon-to-be finished Sino-Philippines Friendship Memorial Hall in this park will be dedicated to her memory," he said.

The President also noted that many successful Filipino Chinese were from the Fujian Province. And their success has "brought not only prosperity, but honor to their kinsmen, whether in the Philippines or China."

"What we want to do now is to make these relationships even stronger, and to fulfill our duty to make certain that our friendly relations are built on the shared principle that our efforts ultimately improve the lives of our respective peoples," he said.

The President presented a parting gift — a tree of his own, planted in the Village of his mother's ancestors.

4:25 p.m. The President departed Xiamen for Manila via Philippine Airlines Special Commercial Flight PR001. He arrived at around 6:40 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In his Arrival Statement, President Aquino thanked his official delegation and the 250 businessmen who paid their own way to join them.

The President reported the agreements made to strengthen cooperation between China and the Philippines specifically in the fields of trade, tourism, media, culture, sports, information, and economic and technical cooperation. It was agreed upon during the trip that 2012 and 2013 are to be the "Philippines-China Years of Friendly Exchanges."

With regard the West Philippine Sea, the President said the dialogue between the Philippine and Chinese officials were meaningful and promising. China is ready to cooperate with the ratification of the ASEAN Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

President Aquino also reported that the message of the Philippines being open to business was well received, as 1.282 billion dollars of new investment is expected to be received from China. "Tinatayang 3.8 billion dollars ang halaga ng mga halos tiyak na mga investments, at nasa 7.9 billion dollars naman ang tinatayang halaga ng mga investments mula sa mga korporasyong nagpahiwatig ng matinding interes na mamuhunan sa ating bansa," President Aquino said.

Furthermore, President Aquino said he was happy to meet with the Filipino community in China. "Nasa ibayong dagat man, taas-noo nilang iwinawagayway ang asul, pula, at dilaw nating bandila. Isa po ito sa mga nagpapatatag sa aking loob na lalo pang pagbutihin ang pamamahala sa bansa, nang hindi maglaon, dito na mismo nila magamit at maibahagi ang kanilang husay at talento sa mga kapwa nila Pilipino," he said.

Notes:

**Madame Sun Chunlan is the highest official of the Fujian Province. She is not only Secretary of the CPC Provincial Committee, but also Chairman of the Standing Committee of Fujian Provincial People's Congress.*

**Throughout the years, Philippine Presidents have always made it a point to pay a visit the Fujian province, specifically its southern portion, because many prominent Filipino-Chinese businessmen trace their ancestry to Fujian and have since returned to invest along its coastal areas.*

The President's Day: September 4, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: September 5, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today presided over the oath taking of appointed government officials, generals, and flag officers in ceremonies held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The newly appointed officials are as follows:

Ramon Reyes Jimenez Jr., acting Tourism Secretary; Ambassador Leslie Gatan, Philippine Ambassador to Canada; Eduardo Batac, Defense Undersecretary; Ibarra Gutierrez III, Undersecretary for the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs; Jose Mari Oquinena, Undersecretary for Special Concern-Presidential Communications Operations Office; Ernesto Ramel Jr., Assistant Secretary for the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs; Atty. Lesley Jeanne Cordero, Assistant Secretary- Presidential Communications Operations Office; Christian Robert Lim, Commissioner-Commission on Elections; Ma. Josefina dela Cruz, Postmaster General-Philpost; Ramon Liwag, Admiral, Philippine Coastguard-Department of Transportation and Communications; Gregorio Ramon Tingson, Commissioner-at-large National Youth Commission; Jennifer Lagbas, Commissioner representing the Business and Industry Sector-Philippine Commission on Women; Atty. Abdullah Mangotara, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration-Department of Justice; Robert Nomar Leyretana, Acting Deputy Administrator, Land Registration Authority-Department of Justice;

MGen. Anthony Alcantara, Lieutenant General; Commodore Honorio Balanon Jr., Rear Admiral; Commodore Armando Guzman, Rear Admiral; BGen. Joel Marayag, Major General; BGen. Noel Coballes, Major General; Col. Caesar Ronnie Ordoyo, Brigadier General; Col. Danilo Fabian, Brigadier General; Col. Reynaldo Torres, Brigadier General; Col. Teodoro Cirilo Torralba, Brigadier General; Capt. Jose Renan Suarez, Commodore; Capt. Jesus Millan, Commodore; Col. Edgar Fallorina, Brigadier General; Capt. Romeo Santiago Nebres, Commodore; Col. Augusto Tolentino, Brigadier General; Col. Leonido Bongcawil, Brigadier General; Col. Leo Cresente Ferrer, Brigadier General; and Capt. Rufino Tiangco, Commodore.

After the ceremonies, the President granted the media an interview.

During the interview, President Aquino mentioned the need for a national broadband network—however, in terms of transactions similar to the NBN-ZTE deal, the President said he would not be in favor of such undertakings. He said the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is handling the matter and plans are already being set up.

President Aquino also confirmed that he is scheduled for two foreign trips this month; one to the U.S. and the other to Japan. The U.S. trip was taken up upon U.S. President Barack Obama's invitation for partnership in open governance. The Japan trip, on the other hand, is an official visit. These engagements, according to the President, would definitely result in good news for the country.

When asked about a new incoming PNP chief, he said the announcement would be released soon.

After the interview, President Aquino spent the rest of his day facilitating meetings held in the palace.

The President's Day: September 6, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings.

The President's Day: September 7, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III began his day with a trip to the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. The President was scheduled for engagements in the cities of Bais and Dumaguete, Negros Oriental.

President Aquino first landed at the Dumaguete Airport to shift flights going to the Bais City Grandstand. Upon arrival, the President was escorted via land vehicle to Barangay 1 for the inauguration of the Mercado de Bais.*

Upon his arrival, President Aquino presided over the unveiling of the market complex's marker. He was assisted by local government officials lead by Bais City Mayor Karen F. Villanueva.

Afterward, the President joined the program. He listened to speakers and viewed intermission numbers. At the end of the program, the President delivered a speech stressing the importance of having a market place: "Ang pamilihang bayan ang puso ng mayamang ugnayan ng ating mamamayan. Dito nagtatagpo ang landas ng marami nating kababayan."

The President said he was astounded upon seeing the new complex. "Aaminin ko pong nang una kong nakita ang pamilihang bayan ninyo, napagkamalan ko po itong mall," he said.

He continued by thanking the Landbank for giving the support for the completion of the market place, and the local government of Bais for advocating projects the people would benefit from.

President Aquino also highlighted that the number of the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has reached more than 2,800. He said the Department of Health-Region VII has included the Bais District Hospital among health centers that would benefit from Health Facilities Enhancement Program on 2012, as well.

Afterward, the President was taken for a tour within the new market place.

In the afternoon, President Aquino flew to Dumaguete City. He arrived at the Dumaguete Airport and directly went to Barangay Bantayan to inspect the grounds of the Link Sy I.T. Park.*

A program was prepared for the event. The President gave his remarks saying the Link Sy I.T. Park was an embodiment of the administration's dream of creating enough job opportunities in the country.

"More people from Dumaguete and from around the region will have access to decent employment. More Filipinos and, specifically, more Negrenses, will be able to receive a decent salary without having to be so far from their families; without leaving behind the comfort and beauty of their home country, or even their home province; and without being too far to enjoy a peaceful stroll along Dumaguete's breathtaking Boulevard at the end of their work days," he said.

President Aquino said endeavors like the I.T. Park would ripple its effects to a better economy. "This is why I am here: to recognize the efforts of those involved in this project and to call on them to continue their hard work—from the administrative staff to the engineers, to the IT-BPO industry workers they will eventually hire," said the President.

After the inspection, President Aquino headed to the Negros Oriental Convention Center to meet the Negros Oriental People Power Volunteers for Reform (PPVR). A program was also prepared for the event and the volunteers were granted a photo opportunity with the President.

Before, flying back to Manila, President Aquino embarked in a whistle stop in the Rizal Boulevard for a brief stroll in the area.

Notes:

**The Mercado de Bais is a new state of the art public market complex located along the National Highway bounded by Mabini Street in the north, Aguinaldo Street in the south, and Roxas Street in the west. The recently completed structure contains an elevator, a cold storage facility, and an underground sewage treatment plant.*

**The Link Sy I.T. Park is an Information Technology facility advocated by the 100 percent Filipino-owned July Development Corporation.*

The President's Day: September 8, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III's first public event was a farewell call from German Ambassador to the Philippines Ludwig Weber Lortsch.

Ambassador Lortsch used to be an envoy to Vietnam before he started his stint in Manila on August 2007. He was received by the President in the Music Room of the Palace, and present during the call was DFA Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Elizabeth Buensuceso, Palace Protocol Chief Ambassador Miguel Perez-Rubio, Press Officer Carmina Barcelon, and the German Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Ralph Timmerman.

From about 11 a.m. to mid afternoon, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers.

Later in the afternoon, he proceeded to the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) campus in Quezon City to attend the investitures of Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin S.J., as of today the 30th President of the ADMU.

The rights were held at the Henry Lee Irwin Theatre, wherein President Aquino administered the oath of office to Fr. Villarin.

As he delivered his salutation address, President Aquino talked about his relationship with Fr. Villarin, an upperclassman at the Ateneo. Fr. Villarin once told the President that he was sure he'd go straight to heaven: the pressures of the presidency might as well be purgatory.

"At ngayong siya mismo ay isa na ring pangulo at araw-araw ding papasan ng mga hinaing ng mga Atenista, hindi na po ako mag-iisa sa purgatoryo: Magkasama na po kami dito," said President Aquino.

"Ang pagkakaiba lang po siguro: ako po ay may nakikita nang four years and nine months, hanggang 2016 lang po ang aking termino, at makakaalis ako sa purgatorio; habang si Father Jett naman, na talagang aral kay Father Ben, ay susundan ang kanyang mga yapak at siguro naman puwedeng higitan 'yung 18 years ni Father Ben," added President Aquino, as the audience roared with laughter and applause.

"At iyan nga po ang pagkakakilala ko kay Father Jett: palabiro ngunit may malasakit, hindi nagkukulang sa pagbubuhos ng kaniyang enerhiya upang makatulong, at higit sa lahat, may tunay na malasakit sa mga Pilipino," he said.

He assured Fr. Villarin that though his responsibilities would be difficult, he and more Ateneans would always be ready to help: "Sasamahan ka namin, kung up o down from the hill; kapit-kamay tayong hahayo bilang taong nagpapakatao, at nakikilahok sa paghubog ng mundo."

The President's Day: September 9, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today attended the PNP Change of Command Ceremony held at the the Philippine National Police (PNP) Multi-purpose Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City. General Nicanor A. Bartolome will be assuming the post of Police Director General upon outgoing PNP Chief General Raul M. Baclazo's resignation.

During the program, the President, assisted by Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, presented the *Medalya ng Katapatan sa Paglilingkod* and the *Presidential Legion of Honor* to Gen. Baclazo as gratitude for his service. Afterward, he witnessed the ceremonial turn-over of Command Symbol to Gen. Bartolome.

President Aquino then delivered his speech, thanking Gen. Baclazo for the reforms he implemented in the PNP during his tenure. "Sa ilalim ng kaniyang liderato, naisakatuparan niya ang mga inisyatibang sa mahabang panahon, ay tila pinapangarap lamang ng PNP. Tumutok siya sa pagpapataas sa antas ng kakayahan at mga kagamitan ni Mamang Pulis, na siya namang nagpaangat din sa moral ng buong PNP," he said.

The number of carnapping incidents, according to the President, diminished from 1,010 during January to March 2010 to only 460 during Gen. Baclazo's term. "Hindi lang ito tungkol sa pagpapababa sa insidente ng carnapping: pitumpu't limang porsyento po ng mga nananakaw na sasakyan ay naibabalik rin po natin sa mga nagmamay-ari nito," he added.

To the incoming Gen. Bartolome, President Aquino encouraged him to treat the responsibility as a personal advocacy to combat all criminal elements in society.

The President said the government is providing all the support it can—from providing housing and upgrading police arms—to bring back honor to the PNP.

"Nais nating mangyari ito dahil alam nating ito rin ang nais ni Juan at Juana dela Cruz: ang gumising araw-araw nang walang pangamba, at mapayapang makapamuhay kasama ng kaniyang pamilya, dahil tiwala siyang may Mamang Pulis na nagbabantay sa kaniyang seguridad sa lahat ng oras," he said.

"Huwag na huwag mong bibiguin ang ating mga Boss," he said.

After the ceremony, President Aquino spent the rest of his day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: September 10, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the Aquino ancestral home in Brangay San Jose, Concepcion, Tarlac. He was there to celebrate the birthday of Maria Aurora "Tita Maur" Aquino-Lichauco, his aunt and father's sister, and for the unveiling of the Doña Aurora A. Aquino Marker, named after the President's grandmother and the mother of Ninoy Aquino. The ceremony began with a mass, followed by the signing of a proclamation designating the Aquino Ancestral House as a National Historical Landmark by Dr. Maria Serena Diokno of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP). President Aquino was witness to the signing, and spoke to the crowd about his grandmother, the late Doña Aurora "Apung Guindang" Aquino, whose presence is still remembered, he said, and is a source of strength of his family to this day. He also talked about his Tita Maur, describing her as a strong woman. "Actually, all the Aquino women are supposed to be strong," he said. "Kaya kaming mga lalake ang advocates ng human rights," he added jokingly.

Afterward, the President led the unveiling of the marker, as well as participated in the blessing of the ancestral home and a tossing of coins ceremony for good luck.

Three generations of Aquinos stayed in the house: Gen. Servillano Aquino, Sen. Benigno Aquino Sr., and Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.; while President Aquino himself spent some of his childhood there.

The President's Day: September 11, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: September 12, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III received a farewell call from outgoing Iranian Ambassador to the Philippines Ali Mojtaba Rouzbehani this morning.

The President entertained Ambassador Rouzbehani in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace, where he thanked the outgoing Iranian ambassador for his efforts in strengthening relations between Iran and the Philippines. He also extended gratitude to the Iranian government for its support, most of all for accommodating exports from the country.

Ambassador Rouzbehani, in turn, expressed assurance on the good ties between the two countries. According to Ambassador Rouzbehani, he sees no hurdle in further expanding the Philippines – Iran relationship. The Iranian ambassador conveyed Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's greetings and best wishes to the President, as well.

Present during the call were Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Iran Seyed Abdulrasool Shabibi, and Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Petronila Garcia of the Office of Middle East and African Affairs.

President Aquino spent the rest of his day in meetings held in the Palace and attending to state papers.

The President's Day: September 13, 2011

Tags: Benigno S. Aquino III, The President's Day

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent the morning and most the afternoon in meetings held at the Palace.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino was paid a courtesy call by Barry Leach, Global CEO of Dunlop Slazenger Phils. Inc., a leading tennis and squash ball manufacturer. The President received Leach in the Music Room of the Palace. To view photos of the courtesy call, please

That evening, President Aquino went to the Rockwell Tent in Makati City for the 25th anniversary of Campaigns and Grey, the marketing communications company that played a big part in his campaign for the presidency. There, he enjoyed presentations from invited performers and a message from Campaigns and Grey Group Chairperson Maria Yolanda “Yoly” Villanueva-Ong, after which the President delivered his remarks, thanking Ms. Ong for her team’s support during the 2010 presidential campaign.

The President said his entry into the presidential race was rather late: “And yet, I believe I was able to communicate the message, the vision that stuck to people and inspired them toward victory. I would like to think that God had put in my path dedicated advocates like Yoly Ong and Marl Villapando, and the rest of Campaigns and Grey,” he said.

“Campaigns and Grey has always been behind me as I tried to get my message across. You have raised my voice above the noise and static,” said the President.

President Aquino also commended Campaigns and Grey for their advocacies that instill a sense of responsibility among its audiences.

“I know that you could easily sit back and watch your bank accounts grow,” said President Aquino. “And still, you go out of your way to make a difference in your country, and for that you will always have my respect.”

The President's Day: September 14, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the 1st Integrity Summit* held at the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City. The summit gathered experts from different fields in order to propose the institutionalization of measures to strengthen ethical business norms in the Philippines.

President Aquino was invited to the Integrity Summit by Makati Business Club Chairman Ramon del Rosario Jr., European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines President Hubert d'Aboville, and Management Association of the Philippines President Felino Palafox, Jr. to be the event's keynote speaker.

During his keynote address President Aquino encouraged those in attendance to support the conference's initiative. Integrity, he reminded, was one of the battle cries of his campaign. "And for the past 15 months, we have taken that battle cry to heart—working to foster a culture of integrity in government. In this regard, I am proud to announce that we have made some progress," he said.

From the appointment of "people of unquestioned ability and integrity" to the budgeting process and involvement of citizens in governance, the administration is doing everything to cultivate a culture of integrity, said the President.

"But instilling a culture of integrity in government is only one aspect of the equation. We must also foster the same culture in the private sector, and this is why what you are doing today is most important," he said.

He also urged the private sector to join the government in its endeavors of establishing this kind of culture. However, the President admitted that this is not an easy task. "But if we work on it—if we choose not to shirk our responsibilities as individuals—then everybody will get the message and act fast and accordingly," he said.

Public officials present during the affair were Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.; Chief Justice Renato Corona; Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima; Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson; Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz; Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo; Budget and Management Secretary Florencio Abad; and COMELEC Commissioner Gus Lagman.

In the afternoon, President Aquino presided over a dialogue with various transport group leaders concerning the recent oil price hikes.

In a press briefing held in Malacañan Palace, Energy Undersecretary Jose Layug and Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte discussed the meeting. Valte said around 30 transport group leaders attended the gathering, with 18 of them engaging the President with their concerns.

According to Valte, topics raised during the meeting included the amendment of the Oil Deregulation Law and *kotong*, the term used for the extortion by traffic enforcers or policemen.

Valte said President Aquino, upon hearing the transport leaders' impassés, ordered the officials concerned to look into the Oil Deregulation Law in order to foster more room for competition. She said the President also stressed that the Aquino administration will not tolerate extortion from policemen and traffic enforcers. He directed Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse M. Robredo to investigate and remove officials guilty of the practice.

Furthermore, Layug said the President mandated concerned agencies to institute the approval of the second reloading of the *Pantawid Pasada* cards as support for jeepney operators when another turn of new oil price increase strikes.

The dialogue with transport groups, held at the Heroes Hall of the Palace, lasted for three hours.

The President's Day: September 15, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III's first public event today was the oath taking of General Danilo "Danny" Lim (ret.). Held at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace. President Aquino administered Lim's oath of office as the new Bureau of Customs Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence. The retired general was accompanied by his wife, Aloy, and daughter, Aika.

Lim, in an interview following the oath taking, said he will be checking the current intelligence gathering system of the BoC. He pledged to do his best to end illegal activities in the bureau.

Lim entered the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) as part of *Makatarungan* Class of 1978, but took, and topped, the entrance exam for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated number 1 in 1978. He returned to the Philippines after taking more military courses in the U.S. He has received many distinctions as a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including the Gold Cross Medal for Gallantry in Action.

He was commander of the Philippine Scout Rangers during his involvement in the 2003 and 2007 mutinies in protest of the administration of President Arroyo. He was detained until granted temporary freedom by the AFP in May 2010.

Please [click here](#) for photos of the President with General Lim during at the Palace.

After administering Lim's oath taking, President Aquino proceeded to the Palace music room to shoot a video message for DZIQ's first anniversary celebration. He spent the rest of his day in meetings with his advisers and staff.

The President's Day: September 16, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today swore-in two of his newly appointed government officials.

In the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon and Estela M. Perlas-Bernabe took their oaths of office as Customs Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice, respectively.

Commissioner Biazon, in a press briefing following his oath taking, pledged that he would do his best to initiate changes in the Bureau of Customs. Points that Biazon stressed during the briefing include changing the mindset of Customs employees, abolishing corruption in the agency, running after smugglers and officials guilty of Customs-related crimes, and setting up reforms that would make Customs systems friendly for setting up businesses. He also expressed his delight with (Ret.) Gen. Danny Lim, working with him as deputy intelligence chief of the bureau.

Biazon was a former representative of the Lone Congressional District of Munitinlupa City. He served for three terms (from 2001 to 2010) throughout which, he authored/co-authored 44 Republic Acts.

Also during the day, President Aquino granted Thomson Reuters and members of the Japanese media an interview in the Music Room and President's Hall of the Palace, respectively.

President Aquino, in an interview with the Japanese media, talked about his scheduled visit to Japan. He said he wanted to thank Japan for its continued support for the country. As *utang na loob* (debt of gratitude), the President said the Philippines is in solidarity with Japan in its recovery from recent disasters. The Philippine government, according to President Aquino, has allocated substantial amount to help Japan in its healing. In fact, another package of assistance is being arranged to further support Japan, he said.

The President's Day: September 17, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in preparing for his official visit to the United States and working on state papers.

The President's Day: September 18, 2011

Today marked President Benigno S. Aquino III's departure for his official visit to the United States. The trip was made upon the invitation of U.S. President Barack Obama and Brazil President Dilma Rousseff for the Philippines to be part of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) 8-country steering committee. The Philippines is one of two countries invited from Asia. It would be joining the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, and South Africa.

The OGP is a multilateral initiative to promote actions such transparency, empowering citizens, developing technologies, and fighting corruption to strengthen governance.

But before his send-off ceremony, the President received a courtesy call from Miss Universe 3rd runner-up Shamcey Supsup. Because of difficulties in matching schedules, President Aquino and Ms. Supsup met at the Presidential Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II, where the President personally congratulated her.

Ms. Supsup graduated magna cum laude with a degree in architecture from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. She also topped the June 2010 Architecture Licensure Examination with an average of 86.60. She hails from General Santos City.

During the President's send-off ceremony held at the NAIA Terminal II, he delivered his departure statement saying the invitation was proof of the country's growing international reputation.

President Aquino said, like all other foreign trips, he expects a lot of good news to emerge from the visit. He said he would seize every opportunity to convince more businessmen to invest in the Philippines because it would translate to more jobs for Filipinos. He said he would deliver news that in the Philippines, everyone strives for a better life.

"Tbabahagi natin sa kanila ang pinakamahalagang leksyon na natutuhan natin nitong mga nakaraang panahon: na ang tapat at mabuting pamamahala ay nagbubunga ng maayos na ekonomiya," said the President.

President Aquino also expressed his eagerness in meeting the Filipino community in Washington: "Pasasalamat natin sila sa napakahalaga at napakalaking tulong nila hindi lamang sa kanilang pamilya, kundi pati sa ating ekonomiya. Pasasalamat din natin sila sa kanilang walang humpay na pagpapamalas ng sipag at husay ng mga Pilipino sa mundo."

At around 10:30 p.m., the President boarded Philippine Airlines commercial flight PR104 to San Francisco. He is expected to land at the San Francisco International Airport at around 8 p.m. where he would board a connecting flight to New York.

The President's Day: September 19, 2011

From San Francisco, President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived at the Teterboro Airport in New York ahead of the scheduled 6 a.m. landing. From there, the President was escorted to the OMNI Berkshire Place Hotel, where he would be housed throughout his stay in New York.

12:10 p.m. (EST) – President Aquino left OMNI Berkshire Place Hotel for Fordham University, where he would be conferred Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*).

Fordham University is an independent Jesuit school in Bronx, New York. It was established in 1841 and has conferred the honorary doctorate degree to over 30 world leaders. As part of the university tradition, names of those conferred with the honorary degree are carved in the steps of the Keating Hall's *Terrace of the Presidents*.

Seven Philippine Presidents have been conferred the distinction: Elpidio Quirino (1949), Ramon Magsaysay (1952), Carlos Garcia (1958), Diosdado Macapagal (1964), Corazon C. Aquino (1986), Fidel Ramos (1993), and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2003). All but President Arroyo's name have been etched on the steps of the terrace.

Upon arrival at the university's Keating Hall, President Aquino was received by university officials lead by Fordham University President Joseph Macshane S.J. He was then escorted to the Terrace of the Presidents where he met with Filipinos studying in Fordham. He also visited the step where the name of his mother, Corazon C. Aquino, was engraved. The President laid a bouquet of flowers in her honor.

During a ceremony held at the Keating Hall, Fr. Macshane presided over the conferment of Doctor of Laws to President Aquino.

The President also delivered an address, in which he said he is "struck by the symbolism of Fordham's tradition of literally carving in stone, the names of leaders upon whom you have conferred honorary doctorates."

Beginning with the oppression of the Filipinos during the Marcos dictatorship that was continued during his predecessor's reign, the Filipino has continued to rid itself against oppression, he said. "It is that determination not to surrender to apathy, and not to allow ourselves to become atomized prisoners of despair and intimidation, that led me to where I am now."

Now, according to the President, "the Philippines has entered into an era of renewed stability and confidence."

"The Filipino people have truly discovered that power is theirs: that the People Power that faced down tanks and artillery, truncheons and teargas, can be their dynamo for progress and the lasting mortar for a government that applies its laws fairly," he said.

Though an instrument of the people's will, President Aquino said that he too had his own ambition: "and that is, that with this rediscovered appreciation of their strength, and their renewed optimism and vigor, the Filipino people, by the end of my term, will have grown so accustomed to genuine public service and so intolerant of corruption, that whether a saint or a sinner succeeds me, no one will be able to roll back the tide of progress and good governance."

After the event, President Aquino went back to the OMNI Berkshire Place Hotel to receive a series of courtesy calls.

4:00 p.m. (EST) – The President met with the officials of Convergys Corporation led by President and CEO Jeffrey Fox, in the hotel's Guggenheim Room.

Convergys Corporation is one of the global leaders in relationship management. In the Philippines, as of August 2011, Convergys employed 26,000 people providing support via telephone, web-chat, and email to a diverse portfolio of clients and their customers worldwide.

Aside from the opening of two centers in the first half of 2011, Convergys will also add this year two centers in MDC, Libis, Quezon City, and one more in Alabang.

4:30 p.m. (EST) – Also in the Guggenheim Room, President Aquino met with the officials of Fiesta Equities, Inc. (FEI) led by FEI President Romeo Chan; EXL Service EVP Client Service Executive Committee member William Bloom; and O.N.E. [One Natural Experience] Coconut CEO and Founder Rodrigo Veloso.

FEI is a coconut manufacturing company exporting one million liters of *coconut water* per month from the Philippines to the U.S. through Michael Kirban's Vita Coco, the beverage company that introduced pure coconut water to American consumers. According to Communications Secretary Ramon Carandang, the company leaders, during the call, said they have pledged to invest US\$15 million in the next four years to increase coconut water production in the Philippines.

EXL, on the other hand, is one of the leading providers of transformation and outsourcing services to Global 1000 companies in multiple industries. It operates in over 20 delivery centers in various countries including the Philippines.

O.N.E. Coconut Water, meanwhile, is a beverage company that offers healthy alternatives to artificial energy drinks, sodas, and enhanced waters.

After the series of meetings, President Aquino proceeded to the Peninsula Hotel for a Business Roundtable.

6:00 p.m. (EST) – At Peninsula Hotel's Gramercy Room, the President attended the Business Roundtable hosted by the US-ASEAN Business Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce. The business roundtable served as a key event for the U.S. to engage the President and affirm its commitment to conduct business with the Philippines. The event was attended by the CEOs of leading U.S. companies.

The President's Day: September 20, 2011

At around 8:40 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed the OMNI Berkshire Place Hotel for the Google office in New York.

In Google New York, the President participated in the "The Power of Open: A Global Discussion," a high-level meeting on greater transparency, accountability, and civic engagement in governance, convened by civil society and private sector companies including Google, PhaseOne Consulting, iStrategylabs, O'Reilly Media, and the Transparency and Accountability Initiative. The discussion was held in conjunction with the launch of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) later in the day.

President Aquino delivered a keynote address on the importance of transparency in the government and the role of modern communications technology in fostering "the foundation of a genuine partnership" between people and government.

"I believe that it is incumbent on all of us to confidently assert that governments that do things right should have no problem keeping our fellow citizens informed and engaged, and are thus, partners of government in its fundamental task of addressing the needs of the people," he said. "By means of National Action Plans informed by the successes and lessons each of us can share with each other, the best practices from our individual national milieus can become a source of collective strength, making a living reality of the Declaration of Principles on Open Government."

He cited efforts done by the Philippine government in utilizing technology to further reach the public. Examples mentioned were the Official Gazette website, the government portal that is working to accumulate "a century's worth of legislation and executive issuances," as well as provide timely updates from different agencies; the Budget Department's initiative of posting budgetary releases and bids for government contracts online; the messaging system that disseminates traffic and weather updates through social online media; and the Pera ng Bayan website, which allows the citizens to report cases of corruption. According to the President, 127 cases have been filed against corrupt officials since the Pera ng Bayan website was first launched in November 2010.

Afterward, President Aquino headed back to the OMNI Berkshire Place Hotel where he received a courtesy call from officials from IBM (International Business Machines).

IBM is an information technology (IT) institution that provides IT products and services worldwide. IBM in the Philippines is the company's 2nd largest global delivery location in the world. From 250 employees in 2004, its workforce reached 8,000 in 2010.

The IBM delegation was led by IBM Growth Markets Bruno Di Leo, Systems Technical Group General Manager for Development and Manufacturing Ambuj Goyal, Vice President for Government Programs Christopher Padilla, and Development and Manufacturing Executive Assistant Kelly Lyndgaard.

With President Aquino were Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Transportation and Communications Secretary Mar Roxas, Communications Development and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang, and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia, Jr.

The meeting took place at the hotel's Guggenheim Room.

After IBM's courtesy call, the President, together with his Cabinet secretaries, attended a roundtable with the officials of CG/LA Infrastructure LLC held at the hotel's Metropolitan Room.

CG/LA Infrastructure LLC is an organization that focuses on making long-term value in the world's infrastructure markets. The group offers services that include Infrastructure include the Infrastructure Leadership Forum Series, Project Development, Strategy Consulting, and Infrastructure Rankings & Market Demand.

In the afternoon, President Aquino proceeded to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York for the launching of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral and multi-sectoral initiative that aspires to attain commitments from governments to promote transparency, empowering citizens, developing technologies, and fighting corruption to strengthen governance.

The event was attended by different heads of state, including those the members of the OGP Steering Committee Committee, composed of the United States and Brazil as co-chairs, and of the Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. President Aquino sat side by side with U.S. president Barack Obama and the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma.

During the occasion, each leader expressed support for the the Open Government Declaration. Read President Aquino's remarks [here](#).

Before heading back to the hotel, President Aquino took a moment to invite U.S. President Obama to the Philippines.

Later at the hotel, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store.

At around 6:00 p.m., President Aquino went to Park Avenue, New York, to Speak before the Asia Society, a non-profit educational institution founded by John D. Rockefeller III in 1956. It was primarily established to promote greater knowledge of Asia in the United States. Today, it is a global institution with offices Asia and the U.S.

Former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. and President Cory Aquino have both spoken before the society. For his turn, President Aquino's [speech](#) centered on the his administration's domestic and foreign policy thrusts.

To cap his day's public events, President Aquino met with the Philippine media back at the hotel.

The President's Day: September 21, 2011

This morning, before his departure for Washington, D.C., President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the Lincoln Center in New York to deliver an address at the IBM Centennial Forum. It was held at the center's Alice Tully Hall.

The event gathered leaders from government, business, academia, and science, with an audience of up-and-coming leaders from across the globe.

The President's address discussed leadership in the changing times. He talked about how technology shaped the manner people coordinated to get certain messages and advocacies across government and society. "In this era of knowledge and information, it has become more and more evident that a people will always find a way to be heard," he said.

The role of a leader then, said President Aquino, is not to stifle these voices but to allow them to flourish. He would need to concentrate his people's "energies toward the forging of a consensus from a diverse orchestra of opinion," he said.

On the personal note, President Aquino shared that his sister, Pinky Aquino-Abellada, was a former employee of IBM. It was also in IBM that Pinky met her husband, Manolo.

After the event, the President headed to Teterboro Airport for his flight to Washington, D.C.

At around 10:15 a.m., President Aquino arrived at the Dulles International Airport and was escorted to the Madison Hotel.

Later, the President met with Senator Daniel K. Inouye at the latter's office in the Capitol. Senator Inouye is a democratic senator from the state of Hawaii. He is currently serving his ninth consecutive term as U.S. senator. He has been senator for 48 years, the longest in the history of the U.S. senate after Robert Byrd.

Senator Inouye also visited the Philippines in 2006 and 2008 and was conferred the *Order of Lakadula*, rank of Grand Cross and a Presidential Citation. In April 25, 2011, he was conferred the *Order of Sikatuna*, rank of *Datu* for his strong advocacies for Philippine-American relations. He was named as an honorary citizen by the provinces of Bulacan and Pangasinan, as well.

Afterward, President Aquino went to the *Washington Post*, to which he granted an interview. He was welcomed at the Editorial Conference Room of the Washington Post building.

Following the interview, the President headed for the World Bank (WB) to deliver a speech at the 2011 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings.

The World Bank annual event brings together bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, and academics. It serves as venue to discuss global issues such as the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness.

Upon arrival, President Aquino met with WB President Robert Zoellick at the WB Headquarters before proceeding to the Black Auditorium where he delivered his speech on integrity, transparency, and accountability as ingredients of governance. The President engaged the audience in an open forum afterwards.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino met with the Filipino Community of Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland at the Fairfax Hotel in Washington, D.C., before finally proceeding to the Dulles International Airport for a flight to the San Francisco International Airport, from where he will take a flight back to Manila.

The President's Day: September 22, 2011

At around 7:30 a.m. (Manila time), President Benigno S. Aquino III left Washington D.C. for San Francisco. In the San Francisco International Airport, the President boarded Philippine Airlines commercial flight PR105 for his trip back to Manila.

President Aquino is expected to arrive at around 5:40 a.m. (Manila time) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal II.

The President's Day: September 23, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived today from his five-day official visit to the United States.

He landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 at around 3:00 a.m., ahead of his scheduled landing time.

During the arrival ceremonies, the President delivered his arrival statement, reporting the events and agreements made during the trip. He was able to meet fellow Filipinos in Washington, show the world of the Philippines' changing system, and invite more investors. Some American companies, for example, expressed interest in the country's lucrative coconut industry.

The President's Day: September 24, 2011

The President had no public events. He spent his day preparing for his official working visit to Japan from September 25 to 28, 2011.

The President's Day: September 25, 2011

At around 9:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III boarded a Philippine Airlines Special Commercial Flight for his official working visit to Japan where he will stay until September 28, 2011.

Before leaving, the President delivered a departure statement, in which he summarized the trip and its purpose. His itinerary includes a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to strengthen Philippine-Japanese bilateral relations and also to personally extend his sympathies and provide more aid for the victims of the recent disasters that struck Japan.

The President arrived at the Haneda Airport in Tokyo in the afternoon. From there, he was escorted to the Imperial Hotel, where he would be staying for the duration of his visit.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino proceeded to the Main Auditorium of the Japan Educational Center to meet the Filipino community of Tokyo. He delivered a speech to a lively crowd.

President Aquino also highlighted the remittance tie-up between Land Bank of the Philippines and Japan Post Bank (the bank is accessible anywhere in Japan). The tie up is an initiative involving the two companies and private sector entities that would lower remittance charges.

“Tbig pong sabihin, dahil sa may mahigit na 200 branches at 7,500 post offices sa Japan, mas madali na po kayong makapagpadala ng pang-tuition sa inyong mga anak o pagpagawa ng inyong dream house,” he said. “At siyempre, mas malaki pa ang maipapadala ninyo dahil dapat bumaba na ang inyong charges.”

Included in the efforts to lower remittance charges is the Speed Money Transfer Japan costing only 500 yen per 10,000-yen remittance. The company is partially Filipino-owned.

The occasion was the President's first public event in Japan. It was attended by around 800 members of the Filipino community, all of whom lauded President Aquino as he shared anecdotes about the developments in the Philippines.

Following the event, the President went back to the Imperial Hotel for a private dinner.

The President's Day: September 26, 2011

At around 8:00 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III left the Imperial Hotel for the Tokyo Station. He was scheduled for a trip to the Tohoku Region in Japan. On his agenda was a visit to Ishinomaki City to turn over U.S.\$1-million worth of additional assistance for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011.

Ishinomaki was one the areas greatly affected by the disasters. According to reports, approximately 46 percent of the city was swamped by the tsunami, causing 3,907 deaths and leaving 2,770 unaccounted for. The tragedy also left around 29,000 of the city's residents homeless.

On board the Hayate 17 bullet train, the President arrived at the Sendai Shinkansen Station at around 10:00 a.m. From there, he was escorted via land transportation to Ishinomaki City.

By noon, President Aquino arrived at Ishinomaki and was received by the city's officials, lead by Mayor Hiroshi, Kameyama in a courtesy call held at the Ishinomaki City Hall Conference Room.

During the event, the President handed a letter pledging the Philippines' assistance to Ishinomaki City. The Philippine Embassy in Japan, through Ambassador Manolo Lopez, will handle the actual turnover transaction. The said amount will aid the city in its restoration efforts.

President Aquino also took the chance to extend his sympathies to the Japanese government as well as thank them for the efforts in accounting for the Filipinos affected by the mishaps.

Philippine officials present during the occasion included members of his official delegation: Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, Transportation and Communications Secretary Mar Roxas, Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Sonny Coloma, and Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, Chief of Presidential Protocol and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Ambassador Miguel A. Perez-Rubio, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Linda Basilio, Presidential Communications Development Strategic Planning Office Undersecretary Manuel L. Quezon III, DFA Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro.

After the courtesy call, the President, accompanied by his official delegation, Ambassador Manuel L. Lopez, and Mayor Kameyama, proceeded to the Kadonowaki Coastal Area to visit the Kadonowaki School, the site where many students died during the tragedies.

President Aquino inspected the area. He laid a wreath and offered his prayers in memory of the victims of the disasters.

Following his visit to Kadonowaki, the President and his official delegation met with the Filipino community at the Ishinomaki Catholic Church, Kindergarten Building. The community was composed of Filipinos from the Miyagi, Iwarte, and Fukushima Prefectures as well as leaders and members of a Filipino church group called the Hawak Kamay sa Mahal na Ina (HAKMI).

President Aquino, during the engagement, listened to the group's stories and experiences during the devastation.

The President, in turn, delivered a message reiterating the Japanese government's efforts in handling the disaster. He imparted as well words of assurance and encouragement to the Filipino communities he met.

Before returning to Tokyo, President Aquino made a stop in the Kadonowaki Junior High School Gym. He visited the city's residents who took refuge in the said shelter.

At around 3:30 p.m., the President proceeded to the Sendai Station, where he boarded the Hayate 32 bullet train for a trip back to Tokyo.

Upon arrival in Tokyo, President Aquino headed to the Imperial Hotel for a welcome dinner hosted by the Marubeni Corporation.

The President's Day: September 27, 2011

Today marked the third day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's official visit to Japan.

The President started his day with a private breakfast before attending a series of meetings.

At The Salon, Imperial Hotel, President Aquino met with the officials of Terumo Corporation, Marubeni Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, and Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

According to reports, Terumo Corporation, one of Japan's top producers of disposable syringes and hospital equipment, presented to the President a *letter of commitment* expressing interest in expanding its facilities in the Philippines. The project is expected to complement the government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Program.

After the meetings, President Aquino left the Imperial Hotel for the Tokyo Kaikan for a roundtable meeting with the officials and members of the Philippine-Japan Economic Coordinating Committee (PhilJEC) and the Japan-Philippine Economic Coordinating Committee (JPECC).

During the engagement held at the Tokyo Kaikan Silver Room, the President delivered his remarks discussing endeavors in relation to the Philippine government's Public-Private Partnership Program. According to President Aquino, immediate projects linked to the said program include fiscal management, contract biddings for infrastructure projects, and the establishment of a vaccination factory. The President also said his administration has made business establishment processes friendly to foreign investors as bureaucratic red tapes have already been dealt with.

Moreover, President Aquino said he has directed his cabinet officials to find measures on how to further support Japan. "And amongst the things that I've tasked them to find out is where in our various laws we can extend more incentives to companies that may wish to relocate in the Philippines and thereby hasten the recovery of the Japanese economy," he said.

Following the roundtable meeting, the President went to Tokyo Kaikan's Royal Room for a luncheon. He addressed his audience during the event, sharing instances of support between the Filipino and Japanese peoples. President Aquino also delivered news of the changes that are happening in the Philippines.

"My government has vowed to follow the formal processes for getting deals approved such as proper and transparent bidding, to help eliminate the preponderance of under-the-table transactions with bloated commissions secretly pocketed by corrupt officials," he said.

The President then took the opportunity to encourage more investments in the Philippines. He seized the chance to pay tribute to the Japanese people who are exerting effort in the rebuilding of their nation, as well.

After the luncheon, President Aquino transferred to the Rose Room (also in the Tokyo Kaikan) for the Philippine Economic Forum. During the occasion, the President answered queries from the audience composed of top Japanese and Filipino businessmen. Topics tackled concerned government projects and reforms geared towards convenience in establishing businesses in the Philippines. Technological innovations endeavored by the administration were addressed, as well.

At around 3:00 p.m., President Aquino headed back to the Imperial Hotel to attend a number of events scheduled to take place in the said place.

In the hotel's Ume Room, the President witnessed the signing of agreements between Federal Land and Orix Corporation, and the First Metro Investment Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Afterward, he proceeded to the Kashiwa Room, where the signing of agreements between Ingasco and Clark Development Corporation, and the Transnational Diversified Group and Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha Line took place.

The President then met with Yokohama Rubber Co. Ltd., Ichijo Co. Ltd., Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., and Yazaki Corporation before going to the Japanese prime minister's office for a Bilateral Summit Meeting.

During the event, President Aquino met with Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda. Both leaders signed a joint statement on the *Comprehensive Promotion of the Strategic Partnership between Neighboring Countries Connected by Special Bonds of Friendship* and witnessed as well the Exchange of Notes of the Forestland Management Project, a program that will aid in the preservation of river basins in the Philippines. The Exchange of Notes was administered by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and Foreign Minister Koichiro.

Before proceeding to the official dinner hosted by the prime minister, President Aquino and Prime Minister Noda signed their joint statement and delivered their joint press remarks on the productive discussions between the two leaders.

At around 9:00p.m., the President went back to the Imperial Hotel, where a thanksgiving dinner hosted by Metrobank for the Philippine delegation awaited.

President Aquino graced the celebration and then proceeded to the hotel's Miyabi Room to meet the Philippine media and update them about the progress of the visit.

Throughout the day, President checked on the situation of the Philippines under typhoon *Pedring*. In a statement, President Aquino outlined how he was in contact with his cabinet secretaries to receive updates and to give instructions to concerned officials.

Aside from the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of National Defense in Manila, the President talked to Social Welfare and Development Secretary Soliman, who was in San Francisco, coordinating constantly with the regional offices in the Philippines and who directed news to the President.

The President's Day: September 28, 2011

Today marked the last day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's official visit to Japan. Part of his day's events included a state call on His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace.

Before proceeding to the Imperial Palace, the President met with the officials of Nikkei, International Friendship Exchange, the Asia Business Council, and the Japan Shipowners' Association (JSA).

During the meeting with Nikkei, company chief Ryoki Sugita invited President Aquino to *Future of Asia*, an annual international forum where government officials and business executives from the Asia-Pacific region convene to dialogue about matters concerning the improvement of the said area. The event is scheduled to take place in Japan in May, 2012.

Mr. Sugita also invited the President to "meet with a descendant of the Grandmaster of the Tea Ceremony" in Kyoto.

At around noon, the President headed to the Imperial Palace to pay His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Akihito a state call. President Aquino was received at the palace's Audience Room, where he took the opportunity to thank his majesty for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation, as well as to invite their majesties—the emperor, empress, and other members of the Imperial family—to visit the Philippines.

Afterwards, both parties proceeded to the Imperial Palace Dining Room for a luncheon. The President was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, and Ambassador Manuel M. Lopez.

His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Akihito is the 125th emperor of his line. During his accession to the Chrysanthemum Throne in 1989, President Aquino's mother, Corazon Aquino, was invited to witness the event.

Following the luncheon, the President went back to the Imperial Hotel to attend a series of meetings.

In the hotel's The Salon, President Aquino met with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Dr. Sadako Ogata. The President took the chance to thank Dr. Ogata for the support through the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA loans accounted for 36 percent or US\$3.46 billion of the total ODA loan commitments to the Philippines.

President Aquino, also in The Salon, next met with the Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPFL), a group of Japanese congressmen working with counterparts from the Philippine Congress to form state policies of mutual benefit to both the Philippines and Japan.

JPPFL members present during the occasion were Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe; Hon. Hajime Ishii, Democratic Party of Japan, Chairman of Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, Member of the House of Councilors of the Diet; Hon. Nobuteru Ishihara, Liberal Democratic Party, Vice-Chairman of Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, Member of the House of Representatives of the Diet; Hon. Mikio Shimoji, People's New Party, Vice-Chairman of Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, Member of the House of Representatives; Hon. Kenji Kosaka, Liberal Democratic Party, Chief Secretary of Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, Member of House of Councilors; and Hon. Yoshio Tezuka, Democratic Party of Japan, Secretary General of Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, Member of House of Representatives.

After the engagements, the President left the Imperial Hotel for the Haneda Airport, where he boarded Philippine Airlines Special Commercial Flight PR001 (Airbus A320-200) for his trip back to the Philippines.

President Aquino was sent off by the officials of Philippine embassy in Japan led by Ambassador Manuel U. Lopez and Japanese officials headed by Ambassador Toshinao Urabe.

At around 7:00 p.m., the President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II and delivered his arrival statement reporting the events and attainments during the four-day trip.

The President's Day: September 29, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III was invited to deliver a keynote address at the ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum, an annual engagement of the region's up and coming leaders in the fields of business, government, and civil society. The convention is a venue for dialogue concerning key issues confronting their respective nations and peoples.

In ceremonies held at the Rizal Ballroom B of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, the President delivered his remarks, wherein he stated that nations in the ASEAN region have found ways to improve their economy amid the global instability.

"But what I have always emphasized in the wake of such developments is that our work does not end with the initial wave of positive results. In this sense, we must treat these indicators of our impressive economic performance not as goals already achieved, but rather as benchmarks," he said.

President Aquino shared the measures taken by the Philippines in order to rise from the flux. He shared efforts in government transparency and accountability starting from the appointment of the people with integrity to creating portals that would communicate the developments of the administration.

The President took the opportunity to convey to our neighbors that "the Philippines is open for business."

"But as I make a particular pitch for investing in my country, let me also say: for us to all grow, it is necessary for us member states of the ASEAN to work together to continue to maintain peace, stability, and an environment that attracts investments," he said.

The President's Day: September 30, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III canceled his public events to attend to matters concerning the effects of typhoon Pedring and to administer actions with regard typhoon Quiel entering the Philippine area of responsibility.

In a statement, the President said he is in contact and has given directives to all concerned government agencies. He also asked the public to heed the advices of national and local officials as the efforts are for public safety and risk reduction.

The President's Day: October 1, 2011

The President had no public events. His day was spent in meetings, monitoring, and coordinating with his Cabinet concerning response and relief efforts in light of typhoons Quiel and Pedring.

The President's Day: October 2, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III and his Cabinet Secretaries presided over a public meeting with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, on the disaster-response efforts of the government regarding Typhoons Pedring and Quiel.

President Aquino directed disaster management officials to come up with mechanisms for fisher folks so they may heed the government warnings against going out to sea during times of disaster. He also considered establishing a protocol on releasing water to minimize mishap casualties and enjoined the Department of Justice (DOJ) to study the legal implications of evacuating residents by force.

In a press briefing following the said meeting, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the President instructed as well the Philippine National Police (PNP) to watch over the houses of the evacuees, as concern for their belongings a the reason for their refusal to leave.

View photos of the meeting with the NDRRMC.

The President's Day: October 3, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today administered the oaths of office to a cluster of government officials. In ceremonies held at the Rizal Hall of the Malacañang Palace, the following were sworn into office:

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Police Director General Nicanor Bartolome,

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Hon. Victoria Bataclan (Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium), Hon. Constancio Vingno Jr. (Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa), Hon. Maria Lumen Isleta (Philippine Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Leah Ruiz (Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Lebanon), Career Minister Atty. Henry Bensurto Jr., Undersecretary Laura del Rosario,

Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)

Undersecretary Rafael Santos, Assistant Secretary Marlou Ubano,

Department of National Defense (DND)

Assistant Secretary Patrick Velez,

Filipino Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Inc. (FILSCAP)

Chairman Arturo Lui Pio (a.k.a. Nonoy Tan), President Noel Cabangon, Vice President Alvin de Vera, Corporate Secretary Kedy Sanchez, Treasurer Doris Saturno,

Trustees: Trina Belamida, Teodolfo Cajucom Cayamanda Jr., Ramon Chuaying, Marivic Benedicto, Raquel Dacillo, Snaffu Rigor, Johnny Sy,

Philippine Press Institute (PPI)

Chairman and President Amado Macasaet, Vice Chairman Vergel Santos, Secretary and trustee for Visayas. Treasurer Isagani Yambot, Executive Director Ariel Sebellino,

Trustees: Antonio Katigbak, Elnora Cueto, and Atty. Jesus Dureza.

Following the oath taking, the President granted the media an ambush interview at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of the Palace. President Aquino addressed queries maintaining his view on Constitutional amendments. He expressed his satisfaction with regard government efforts in addressing the effects of typhoons Pedring and Quiel, though he admitted that the present measures could still be improved. The President also hailed the landmark decision from a court in Hong Kong granting Evangeline Vallejos, a Filipino domestic helper, the right to apply for residency in the said country. President Aquino added that he would have to further study the laws behind the decision to know the implications of the verdict.

At around noon, the President received news of a guerilla attack in Claver, Surigao del Norte staged by the National People's Army (NPA), the armed group of the Communist Party of the Philippines. According to reports, the Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC), Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp., and Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) were raided because of the said companies' refusal to pay revolutionary taxes.

President Aquino convened a meeting with his Security Officials who briefed him on the situation, and he gave orders to be implemented by the Executive Secretary. The President then met with his Economic Cluster while still in contact with the aforementioned concerned government officials.

After the meeting, President Aquino proceeded to the Presidential Situation Room in the Malacañang Park to be furthered briefed on the developments.

The President's Day: October 4, 2011

President Aquino received the credentials of the new German Ambassador this morning.

His Excellency Joachim Heidorn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Philippines, met President Aquino in a ceremony at the Music Room of Malacañang Palace.

He will be taking over the duties of his predecessor, Ambassador Webber Lortsch.

For the rest of the day, President Aquino presided over meetings.

The President's Day: October 5, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today went to areas in Central Luzon ravaged by typhoons Pedring and Quiel to inspect rehabilitation efforts and assess the situation of the thousands of families affected. With the President were Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang, Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, National Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Tarlac Governor Victor Yap, and La Paz Mayor Bong Manuel.

At around 8:50 a.m., the President arrived at the Rio Chico Bridge in Barangay San Roque in La Paz, Tarlac. The Rio Chico Bridge connects the municipalities of La Paz, Tarlac and Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija. The river's heavy siltation is believed to have caused the flooding, adding to the area's basin-like terrain that catches runoff water from dams in Northern Luzon.

On site, President Aquino was briefed by Public Works and Highways personnel about the extent of the damage caused by the typhoons.

Following his inspection of the site, President Aquino visited the families sheltered at the La Paz Plazuela Evacuation Center, where he addressed the evacuees, assuring them of more help to come from their government. The President said he has given instructions for a review of the bridge's design in order to avoid further damage in the future and to ensure the public's safety. President Aquino also directed for officials to start dredging the river.

Afterwards, the President proceeded to San Fernando Pampanga to inspect the Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project Phase 3-B (PHUMP 3-B), a flood control venture involving dredging and embankment construction in the San Fernando River and its channels to prevent flooding in San Fernando City and the towns of Guagua, Lubao, and Sasmuan. According to reports, the President pledged government support to Pampanga's endeavors in flood control. Subsequently, the President went to the province of Bulacan. President Aquino went around the flooded streets of Barangay Corazon, Calumpit, atop an army truck.

The President proceeded to the UPPC Chapel Evacuation Center in Barangay Iba Este to visit the families who sought refuge in the said location before carrying on to the Pavilion at the Hiyas Convention Center in Malolos Bulacan.

In the Pavilion, President Aquino presided over a meeting with the members of the Regional Development Council 3, where the concerned government agencies presented their recommendations to address the damage caused by the typhoons.

After, the President granted the media a briefing. He said the government has sufficient funds to cater to the damage done by the disasters in Region 3.

Furthermore, President Aquino assured the people that the government has in store around P8 billion in calamity funds carried over from last year. The said amount would be used to finance rehabilitation efforts.

The President's Day: October 6, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent his day in meetings with Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr. and Budget and Management Secretary Florencio B. Abad in Malacañan Palace.

In the evening, the President proceeded via land transportation to the Manila Hotel to attend its 99th anniversary celebration.

The event was held at the hotel's Fiesta Pavilion. In his speech, the President said the Manila Hotel is intertwined with the country's history.

"And I am sure that, for many years to come, whatever the future holds in store for all of us, the Manila Hotel will be there as a symbol of the tradition of hospitality of all Filipinos, giving our tourists a chance to experience the true warmth of the Filipino people," he said.

"Rest assured that our administration will do everything in its power—with the cooperation of establishments like the Manila Hotel—to make sure that our tourism industry continues to grow," President Aquino added.

The Manila Hotel is the first five-star hotel in the Philippines. It was the venue for many historic events in the country, including the ASEAN Summit in 1966 and the Philippine Constitutional Convention in 1970. It has entertained many prominent persons such as General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon B. Johnson, U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon, U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, The Beatles, the Rockefeller brothers, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jackson, Marlon Brando, and John Wayne.

The President's Day: October 7, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: October 8, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: October 9, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: October 10, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today presided over a series of meetings in Malacañan Palace.

In one of the engagements, the President met with Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, Budget and Management Secretary Florencio B. Abad, Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang, and Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda in the Palace's Music Room.

They tackled relief and rehabilitation for the provinces of Isabela, Quirino, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Benguet, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Pampanga.

President Aquino today also declared October 31 of this year a special non-working holiday by

The President's Day: October 11, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to Mandaluyong City to lead the groundbreaking ceremony of the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School (ABIS) Annex Building at Barangay Addition Hills, the inauguration and blessing of the four-storey Eulogio Rodriguez Integrated School Building (ERIS) in Barangay Hagdan Bato Itaas, and the groundbreaking ceremony of another two-storey ERIS building.

The President proceeded first to ABIS. Upon arrival, President Aquino was ushered to a vacant lot where the ceremony would take place. With him were Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Lone District of Mandaluyong Representative Neptali Gonzales II, and Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr.

Afterward, the President headed to ERIS where he presided over the unveiling of the marker of the four-storey, 40-classroom ERIS building, then walked to the campus' groundbreaking site to commence with the ceremony.

During the program, the President delivered a speech underscoring the importance of education. He stressed that the new buildings and classrooms being constructed in these Mandaluyong schools are only part of the reforms in the Education sector.

“Naglaan po tayo ng 238.8 bilyong pisong pondo para sa DepEd para sa taong 2012,” President Aquino said. “Sa pangunguna ni Kalihim Bro. Armin Luistro, target po nating makapagtayo ng humigit-kumulang animnapu’t anim na libong (66,000) classrooms bago matapos ang ating termino—mga apat na taon at walong buwan na lang po iyan.”

The President also talked about bringing in more teachers and upgrading educational facilities and materials to improve the quality education.

“Kaya naman sa ating mga estudyante, huwag sana ninyong palampasin ang magandang pagkakataong ibinigay sa inyo upang makapag-aral at umasenso. Taglay ang inyong mayamang kaalaman at kasanayan, talaga naman pong malaki ang maitutulong ninyo sa lalo pang pag-usad ng ating ekonomiya at ng bayan tungo sa kaunlaran,” said President Aquino.

In the afternoon, upon the invitation of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo and Oriental Mindoro Governor Alfonso Umali Jr., the President went to the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City to deliver a keynote message for the *Biyaheng Pinoy* culmination program. The event was conducted in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Local Government Code of 1991. It features a series of local governance-related activities participated in by national government agencies, local government units, private sector entities, and other related stakeholders.

During his address, President Aquino shared the local government units' (LGU) efforts to raise the Filipino's standard of living. He pointed out the restructuring of the business permit application process. “Sana nga po ay ito na ang maging permanenteng lunas sa madalas na reklamo ng mga negosyante na gobyerno pa raw ang nagpapahirap sa kanila sa pagtatayo ng mga negosyo,” the President said.

President Aquino also lauded the LGUs' and the national government's actions in handling disasters, as shown during typhoons Pedring and Quiel. However, the President acknowledged the fact that there were still casualties, and that government efforts to better its . “Naglalabasan man ang mga kapalpakan sa mga proyekto at mga istrakturang dapat ay maglalayo sa atin mula sa kapahamakan, hindi tayo maaaring magpalunod na lamang sa kritisismo at negatibismo,” he said.

Furthermore, President Aquino called on the LGUs to join the administration in its endeavors of improving the country.

Other government officials present during the events were Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Health Secretary Enrique Ona, Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, Presidential Adviser to the Peace Process Teresita Quinots-Deles, Anti-Poverty Commission chief Joel Rocamora, Presidential Political Adviser Ronald Llamas, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, and TESDA Director General Joel Villanueva.

The President's Day: October 12, 2011

Attend the Annual Presidential Forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) to deliver a message and afterward, engage the FOCAP media members in an open forum. FOCAP is one of the Philippines' respected media organizations. It was founded in 1974 to safeguard press freedom during the Martial Law years under former President Ferdinand Marcos.

In his speech, the President hailed FOCAP's decision to stand for press freedom even at the height of martial law. "Allow me to say that I am deeply grateful for all this organization has done through the years, and that I will always respect what it stands for," he said.

President Aquino then shared that he has authorized P72 billion worth of additional expenditures. He said the funds would be spent on "projects that will have high macroeconomic impact, and will help the poor."

"The great thing is this: we're not borrowing any additional money to fund these projects. The funds will come from the money we have saved and from our existing borrowing program," the President added.

President Aquino also said the government will be strengthening trade with BRICSAM countries to diversify products and markets thus absorbing the effects of the crisis in the U.S. and Europe.

"The great thing is this: we're not borrowing any additional money to fund these projects. The funds will come from the money we have saved and from our existing borrowing program," said the President.

Following his speech, President Aquino answered questions from FOCAP media members. With regard the NPA attacks to the mining companies in Surigao del Norte, the President said a group of Japanese investors have given their assurance that they would continue to do business in the Philippines in spite of the attacks.

In light of the disputes with the Spratly Islands, President Aquino said there are developments as agreements with a declaration of a zone of peace among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) exist. He also announced that the president of Vietnam would be coming to the Philippines for a state visit. The date of the event was not disclosed.

Furthermore, the President, regarding providing state honors for the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos, said it would be the height of injustice to give honors to the person who staged martial law that caused suffering to the Filipino.

Government officials present during the event were Communications Secretaries Ricky Carandang and Sonny Coloma, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles, and Chief of Staff General Eduardo Oban.

It was the first time in five years since the President of the Philippines attended the said annual event.

After the ceremony, President Aquino went back to Malacañan Palace to preside over a series of meetings.

In the evening, the President proceeded to Sofitel Plaza in Pasay City to attend and deliver a keynote and closing plenary address at the 3rd Annual International Outsourcing Summit of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP), the umbrella organization of the offshoring and outsourcing (O&O) industry.

BPAP serves as the one-stop information and advocacy gateway for the country's key O&O services sector and has over 200 company members, including five industry associations.

In his message, President Aquino extended his gratitude to the O&O industry as it provided many Filipinos with jobs thus allowing them to raise their standards of living. According to the President, the industry generated \$8.9

billion in revenues and employed half a million people. The industry, he said, is forecasted to even grow as it is expected to raise the number of its full-time employees.

“This is why whenever I go abroad and tell the world that the Philippines is open for business, your industry is one of those foremost in my mind,” he said.

President Aquino also provided assurance that the government is creating programs to make Filipinos more competitive in their field. Mentioned government endeavors include the Department of Science and Technology’s system, the Global Competitiveness Assessment Tool, to scale the country’s human resource capabilities; the New Wave Cities program, a course involving the private sector that gives people a chance to be employed; and the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority’s (TESDA) initiative of allotting funds for free training of potential workers of the O&O industry.

“I am also happy to announce to you today that I have recently approved an additional 500 million pesos, under our stimulus package, for training program to be undertaken by TESDA, in partnership with your industry,” said the President.

Present during the event were Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, and TESDA Director General Joel Villanueva.

The President's Day: October 13, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent his day in meetings with his Cabinet secretaries and advisers.

In the evening, the President, upon the invitation of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), went to the Manila Hotel to attend and deliver a keynote address at the 37th Philippine Business Conference.*

In the hotel's Fiesta Pavilion, President Aquino delivered a speech reporting the country's improvement in ratings and rankings in the global economy.

"But for the record: while the government has indeed worked hard for this, all of you here are equally deserving of praise. That is why I made it a point to be here, so that as President of this country, I could express my gratitude for your hard work," he said.

The President also acknowledged the global crisis providing, nonetheless, an assurance that the Philippine government is ready to handle any dilemma that may come.

President Aquino then underscored the recently approved amount of P72 billion in new programs. "I would like to emphasize, however, that we are not doing this merely for growth's sake. We chose initiatives for this stimulus package that are either high-impact or anti-poverty projects that are easy to get to the ground, so that Filipinos can feel the effects immediately," he added.

As he ended his speech, the President assured his audience that the Philippines is on the promised path and is working even harder toward progress.

Government officials present during the event were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo.

**The PBC is an annual 3-day event conducted by the PCCI. It is the biggest annual gathering of business leaders and government officials in the country.*

During the event, the involved entities exchange ideas on the general state of the economy. They formulate policy recommendations to improve the business and investment environment in the country. The strengthening of the relationship between the private sector and the government is part of their agenda as well.

The President's Day: October 14, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today received a courtesy visit from the officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII).

In the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, the FFCCCII, lead by organization President Tan Ching, turned over a check worth P20 million to the Philippine government in support for the victims of typhoons Pedring and Quiel.

With President Aquino were Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman.

After the courtesy visit, the President spent the rest of his day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: October 15, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: October 16, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: October 17, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City to attend the National Anti-Poverty Commission's (NAPC) Basic Sectors' National Sectoral Assemblies.

The President delivered a speech stressing that fighting poverty is still the main agenda of the Aquino administration. He admitted that though figures have shown the country's improvement, they should not be content with such. "Bawat mesang walang laman; bawat tiyan na kumakalam ay tanda na marami pa tayong dapat gawin," said President Aquino.

The President then cited the programs under the NAPC and expressed his hopes in them. "Maging tanda nawa ang pagtitipong ito sa kahandaan nating magkaisa—ang maiparating ang kapit-bisig nating panawagan at paninindigan upang akayin ang ating mga pinakanangangailangang kababayan palayo sa kahirapan," President Aquino said as he ended his speech.

After the event, the President proceeded back to the Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his Cabinet Secretaries.

The President's Day: October 18, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Head Quarters in the Port Area in Manila to be the guest of honor and deliver a speech in its 110th Anniversary.

Upon arrival, the President was accorded arrival honors and was ushered to the Ceremonial Area, where he delivered a speech lauding the PCG for its endeavors in safeguarding Philippine waters and saving lives. “Kaya naman sasamantalain ko na po ang pagkakataong ito para ipaabot ang aking taos-pusong pasasalamat sa ating Coast Guard,” said President Aquino.

The President said the PCG was neglected for a quite a time and assured the coast guards of the government's support under his administration. “Makakaasa kayong habang iginugol ninyo ang inyong oras at pagod sa pagbabantay ng ating karagatan, doble-kayod din ang ating administrasyon sa pagtugon sa inyong pangangailangan,” President Aquino added.

Following the PCG event, the President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace. In the Palace's Music Room, President Aquino received a courtesy call from officials of the Philippine Advertising Congress Executive Committee and of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), the umbrella organization of the advertising industry in the country.

With the President were Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Tourism Secretary Mon Jimenez.

After the courtesy call, President Aquino presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

Notes:

On February 17, 2011, President Aquino delivered a speech during the induction ceremony of AdBoard Officers held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 19, 2011

Most of President Benigno S. Aquino III's day was spent in meetings.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City to attend the 2011 Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) Leadership Conference.

President Aquino delivered a message lauding Ateneo for its excellence, most of all for its endeavors in public service.

Afterward, the President proceeded to the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel for the 10th Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – Asian CSR Awarding and Intel-AIM Corporate Responsibility Awarding (IACRA) ceremonies, held at the hotel's Isla Ballroom.

President Aquino conferred the following recipients with their respective awards:

Pfizer (Thailand) Limited: **Health Enhancement Award**

The Link Management Ltd.: **Environment Excellence Award**

Citi Pakistan: **Poverty Alleviation Award**

Double A (1991) Plc.: **Poverty Alleviation Award**

Abbott (Singapore): **Educational Improvement Award**

Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa: **Intel-AIM Corporate Responsibility Award**

Assisting the President were Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) President Edilberto De Jesus, AIM Vice Chairman Felipe Alfonso, AIM Board of Governors and Trustees Chairman Napoleon Nazareno, and Corporate Affairs for Asia Pacific Region Intel Corporation Director Dr. Anjan Ghosh.

President Aquino also delivered a speech underscoring the principles of accountability and inclusive growth. He said the many, if not all, of the Asian corporations have embraced these principles as they ensure that they people a chance to "live a more dignified life."

"Corporate Social Responsibility is not merely a palliative offered to people as corporations go about their business," said the President.

"It is an understanding that responsible corporate stewardship is something that, in the long run, will enhance the social and political climate in which the companies operate, which ultimately leads to a more stable business environment," he said.

The President's Day: October 20, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Leyte to attend the 67th anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landings at the MacArthur Landing Memorial Park in Candahug, Palo.

At around 7 a.m., the President went to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay to catch his flight to the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport in Tacloban. From there he was escorted to the MacArthur Landing Memorial Park, where he was accorded military honors.

During the ceremony, the President led the wreath-laying rite. He was joined by Leyte Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla, (Ret.) Col. Francisco T. Dan Miguel of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Embassy of Canada Counselor for Political/Economic Relations and Public Affairs James Christoff, Defense Attache of the Australian Embassy Capt. Craig White, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas, and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe.

President Aquino delivered a speech wherein he stressed that the day's celebration was in commemoration of the end of war and a commitment to "never again allow aggression and war to destroy lives."

The President underscored government programs, such as pension and health care, for the benefit of our war veterans, as endeavors in making meaningful their sacrifices and heroism during times of conflict. "Our officials are also hard at work in appealing the denied claims of some of our veterans in the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Act of America," he added.

The President also talked about the modernization of the Philippine Armed Forces as part of the government's endeavors in maintaining peace within the archipelago.

He ended his speech with a reminder: "Let us remember the war is over; the peace needs to be won completely."

The President's Day: October 21, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd. The foreign minister was received by the President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Following the courtesy call, the President went to East Avenue in Quezon City to attend the grand launching of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) Diagnostic Center.

The NKTi is a tertiary medical specialty center for treating kidney and allied diseases. It is the first government hospital in the country to be ISO-9001:2008 certified. Its equipment, manpower, and services are of global standards.

During the event, President Aquino led the unveiling of the institution's marker, toured the facility, and delivered a speech, wherein he shared the conversation he had with the Australian foreign minister during the courtesy call earlier this morning. He said one of the Australian government's plans is to create 5,000 classrooms to aid the Philippines in addressing the country's classroom shortage.

As he continued, the President then lauded the NKTi for being one of the premier kidney transplant centers in Asia. He cited the establishment of the institution as proof of this government's efforts in fostering healthcare in the country.

He also thanked the doctors and nurses who stayed in the country to be of service to fellow Filipinos.

Furthermore, President Aquino revealed that he approved a release of P2.5 billion to upgrade medical institutions such as the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Heart Center, the Philippine Children's Medical Center, and PhilHealth.

In the afternoon, the President convened a command conference with officials of different agencies and with officers of the Armed Forces at the AFP Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

After the meeting, President Aquino proceeded to the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* in Taguig City. There, the President offered his prayers and respects to the soldiers who fell during an encounter with a force allegedly made up of Abu Sayyaf and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members last week.

President Aquino, moreover, condoled with the families of the slain soldiers.

The President's Day: October 22, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: October 23, 2011

The President had no public events for the day.

In a radio interview aired through DZRB Radyo ng Bayan, though, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte announced that President Aquino has instructed the Department of Budget and Management to release P10 billion for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) modernization program. Budget and Management Secretary Butch Abad also announced the President's approval of the release that afternoon.

Valte, during the same interview, also extended President Aquino's congratulations to Nonito "*The Filipino Flash*" Donaire Jr. for winning against Argentinian boxer Omar Narvaez via unanimous decision during the title bout held at the Madison Square Garden in New York. With this victory, Donaire retained his WBO and WBC world bantamweight titles.

The President's Day: October 24, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent his morning in meetings in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President received a courtesy call from the Special Olympics Philippines athletes and officers in the Palace's President's Hall.

The team, made up of 38 athletes, won 49 medals overall (22 gold medals) during the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens on June 25 to July 4, 2011. The event was participated by 7,500 athletes from 185 countries.

Then, President Aquino proceeded to the Palace's Heroes Hall to lead the awarding ceremony of the Apolinario Mabini Awards and deliver a message afterward.

In his message, the President thanked the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PFRD) for their efforts in addressing the needs of the differently-abled Filipinos.

"Kayo po ang patunay na kahit sinong Pilipino, anuman ang kondisyon sa buhay, ay may kakayanang abutin ang kanyang mga sariling mithiin," he said.

"Karangalan ko pong magpugay sa mga modernong Mabini na sumisimbolo sa tatag at husay ng atin pong lahi; mga organisasyon at institusyong nagpamalas ng wagas na pagmamalasakit upang mapabuti ang kapakanan ng mga kapatid nating may kapansanan," the President added.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino went to the Metropolitan Museum of Manila in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila to attend the inauguration of the photo exhibit titled *Foto a Foto: Un Retrato de España* (Photo by Photo: A Portrait of Spain).

The exhibit was in commemoration of national hero Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary. The show featured 60 photographs that captured six decades of Spanish history from 15 acclaimed Spanish photographers.

In the museum's Tall Galleries, the President delivered a speech sharing that during his kindergarten years, he was enrolled in *Institucion Teresiana* where people spoke "a different form of English."

"Later on, I found out that was not English. That was Spanish," President Aquino said jokingly.

The President continued by inviting fellow Filipinos to view the exhibit, as it was an event that was opened to further friendship ties between Spain and the Philippines.

"The best part of exhibits like this is how much we can discover of a people with whom we share common aspects of faith and culture—what makes us different, yes; but also those parts of ourselves that we can see in them," said President Aquino.

At the inauguration proper, Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Jorge Domecq presented to the President the 1st copy of the photography book catalog to signify the start of the event.

President Aquino was then ushered to view the pieces on display.

Moreover, during the day, the President convened a press briefing on the aftermath of the armed encounter in Basilan.

In a statement delivered at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace, President Aquino stressed that the government would not resort to all-out war but will instead pursue all-out justice.

"All-out war is indiscriminate and borne out of anger. All-out justice is sober and fair; it is based on the rule of law, and leads to lasting peace," he said.

"We are not interested in knee-jerk reactions that will jeopardize our efforts to address the roots of conflict in the region. Anong klaseng pag-iisip ang nagsasabing awayin ang lahat, sabay-sabay, miski ang nananahimik, sa lahat ng sulok ng Pilipinas, para lang masabing may ginagawa ka?" added the President.

President Aquino also said he has instructed "intensified operations" against the criminal elements.

"The mailed fist of the state will be brought to bear upon them so that justice may be served. There is no question that the state will find them," said the President.

The President's Day: October 25, 2011

This morning, in ceremonies held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of Malacañan Palace, President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the Order of National Scientist to Fr. Bienvenido Nebres S.J., for his achievements as mathematician, educator, mentor, and administrator and for his contributions to education and social reform.

The President delivered a speech lauding Fr. Nebres for his achievements and advocacies. "Father Nebres has been a consistent advocate of educational reform, a leader who has pushed for the formulation and implementation of a long-term plan to improve our nation's competitiveness in the natural sciences and mathematics. Over the years, he has worked tirelessly to find effective ways of improving education in the public school system," he said.

"May Father Nebres serve as an example of integrity, hard work, and service to all of us as we continue to dedicate ourselves to the development and improvement of those who need help the most," President Aquino added.

Following the conferment ceremonies, the President received a courtesy call from the officials of Discovery Channel at the Palace's Music Room.

The Discovery Channel delegation was lead by Discovery and Networks Asia-Pacific President and Managing Director Tom Keaveny.

In the afternoon, President Aquino attended meetings in the Malacañan Palace. Afterward, he graced the inaugural of the Galeria Roces and the formal opening of Casa Roces, a food chain in the Malacañang compound.

The President's Day: October 26, 2011

Today marked the start of Socialist Republic of Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang's three-day state visit in the Philippines. President Sang's stay is the first state visit hosted by the Aquino administration. The event also scored 35 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Vietnam.

In arrival ceremonies held at the Malacañan Palace grounds, President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed President Sang and his delegation. Cordon Honors was given to President Sang upon his entrance.

After, President Aquino and President Sang proceeded to the Palace's Reception Hall, where President Aquino witnessed the Vietnamese president sign the Palace guest book.

The President, together with his Cabinet secretaries, then received the Vietnamese delegation in a courtesy call at the Music Room of the Palace.

Afterward, both parties convened in an expanded bilateral meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

A signing of bilateral agreements then took place at the Palace Reception Hall with Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert de Rosario and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh as signatories for the Philippines and Vietnam, respectively. The agreements included mechanisms of cooperation in naval, coast guard, and tourism sectors. President Aquino and President Sang were witnesses to the event.

Following the signing of bilateral agreements, Presidents Aquino and Sang delivered a joint press statement.

In his remarks, President Aquino shared accounts of the bilateral meeting: "Our nations reached an agreement on a collaborative blueprint of specific bilateral projects we both intend to undertake from now until the end of my term. The Philippine-Viet Nam Action Plan 2011-2016, one of the agreements signed this afternoon, is not simply a wish list. It is a framework that enhances multifaceted relations in 13 areas of cooperation."

"We also exchanged information and views on issues relating to the West Philippine Sea/East Sea and reaffirmed the importance of the maintenance of peace, stability, maritime safety and security in the region. We agreed that a rules-based approach, adhering to international law, especially the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is essential to the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of these issues through multilateral dialogue and consultations," he added.

According to President Aquino, both parties also underscored the importance of the implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

Furthermore, President Aquino also announced the coming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and East Asian Summit (EAS) meetings. "In this light, President Sang and I affirmed that strong support for regional and international initiatives for development and security is imperative in advancing mutual interests," he said.

In the evening, President Aquino hosted a state banquet in honor of the Vietnamese president. He delivered a toast for President Sang, the ASEAN community, and the relationship between Vietnam and the Philippines.

The President's Day: October 27, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today received a courtesy from World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick. The President welcomed Zoellick and his delegation at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Following the call, President Aquino proceeded to the Palace's Heroes Hall for the 9th Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awards. The TAYO Awards Foundation is an organization searching for communities in the Philippines that contribute to the country's development. TAYO aims to give these groups recognition for their endeavors in nation building.

During the event, the President presided over the awarding ceremonies. He also delivered his remarks lauding and thanking the awardees for all their efforts in helping the country prosper.

He also extended his gratitude to the National Youth Commission, TAYO Awards Foundation, and the other agencies involved in giving recognition to outstanding youth groups.

President Aquino, furthermore, assured of the government's efforts in making the Filipino youth achieve their full potential.

Moreover, the Lenovo Young Do-ers I.T. Award and Coke Barkada Award were presented to the winning youth organizations during the event.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace, to preside over the national awarding ceremony for the 2011 Presidential Award for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities and attend the launching of the book "A Journey with Children."

During the event, President Aquino was presented a first copy of the said book before leading the awarding ceremony. Out of 17 finalists, five local government units (LGU) were selected as winners:

1st-3rd Class Municipalities – Mariveles, Bataan

4th-6th Class Municipalities – Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya

Component Cities – Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Independent Component Cities – Santiago City

Highly Urbanized Cities – Mandaluyong City

Following the awarding ceremony, the President delivered a speech underscoring the importance honing Filipino youth and the measures the government has taken such as apportioning a large part of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* for the youth and the enrollment of 5.2 million families a sponsored program of PhilHealth.

"Prayoridad din po natin ang edukasyon, at nakikipagtulungan na po tayo sa mga local government units upang mapagbuti pa ang sektor na ito," said President Aquino.

"Sa katunayan, nitong nakaraang buwan lang, sa ilalim po ng ating Counter-Parting for Classroom Construction Program, may naipanata na po tayong target na pondong isang bilyong piso para sa school year na ito. Ito po ay upang makapagpatayo ng mahigit isanlibo at tatlong daang mga bagong silid-aralan.," he added.

He also called on the Filipino youth to hold on their dreams. “Patuloy po nating kumpunihin ang mga bitak ng lipunan sa kasalukuyan, dahil sa ganitong paraan rin natin mailalatag ang mas patag na kinabukasan.”

The President's Day: October 28, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent his day presiding over meetings with his advisers.

This evening, upon invitation of Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide (JILCW) founder, Brother Eddie Villanueva, the President proceeded to the Quirino Grandstand in Manila for the institution's 33rd anniversary celebration.

During the event, President Aquino led the launching of the *God Bless the Philippines*, an online prayer movement that encourages the Filipino to participate in posting a prayer for the country.

Afterward, the President delivered a message underscoring the importance of prayer and encouraging Filipinos to engage more in prayer as the administration pursues its efforts in uplifting its citizens.

After his remarks, President Aquino was prayed over by Bro. Villanueva.

The President's Day: October 29, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers. He also constantly received updates from the Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine National Police, and the Metro Manila Development Authority regarding situations during the observance of All Saints Day.

The President's Day: October 30, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers. He also constantly received updates from the Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine National Police, and the Metro Manila Development Authority regarding situations during the observance of All Saints Day.

The President's Day: October 31, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today joined members of the Aquino family in the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City. The President visited the tomb and paid his respects to the late President Corazon Aquino and former Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr.

The President's Day: November 1, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on State papers. He also constantly received updates from the Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine National Police, and the Metro Manila Development Authority regarding situations during the observance of All Saints Day.

The President's Day: November 2, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings with his advisors.

Meanwhile, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson extended President Aquino's congratulations to the Filipino Math whiz kids for their achievements in the 2011 Australian Mathematics Competition. Sixty students from the Philippines placed in the top two percent in the competition participated in by 300,000 contestants; 10 Filipino students were given awards for high scores; and Reginald Sy, a high-school student from the St. Jude Catholic School in Manila, attained a perfect score during the competition.

Valte also extended the President's support for the Department of Education's declaration of November as the National Reading Month.

The proclamation coincides with the country's National Book Development Month and the National Book Week celebrated during the fourth week of November.

The President's Day: November 3, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today received a courtesy call from Wen Bo of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. The President welcomed Wen Bo at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President presided over a meeting discussing the Digital Terrestrial TV Broadcasting (DTTB) Standard at the President's Hall of the Palace, after which President Aquino attended a round table discussion with the Cabangon Chua media group at the Music Room.

The President's Day: November 4, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today answered questions submitted online for the YouTube World View interview, which was held at the Presidential Broadcast Studio and streamed live via [YouTube's World View channel](#).

World View is a monthly series of interactive dialogues in which leaders, through livestreaming, respond to questions submitted by their citizens online. President Aquino is the first Asia-Pacific head of state to participate in this series.

During the event, the President addressed queries regarding job creation, defense, issues in Mindanao, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, public transportation, environment, natural calamities, the justice system, the Freedom of Information Bill, the Reproductive Health Bill, and tourism.

Through a video question, the last for the World View interview, President Aquino was asked by seven-year-old Joshua if he believes in Santa Claus, and if he has a wish for the upcoming Christmas season.

The President said he believes in Santa Claus as an embodiment of the people's generosity and caring. He said his wish is for the Filipino to foster a culture of helping each other rather than one that nurtures criticism and envy.

To view the video, and to read the full transcript of the YouTube World View interview, please [click here](#).

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino received a courtesy call from U.S. Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams. The President met Williams at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 5, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: November 6, 2011

Today, the country observes Eidul Adha, or the Muslim Festival of Sacrifice.

President Benigno S. Aquino III released a message showing appreciation for the Muslim Filipinos' conviction to their faith. "This occasion also imparts the lesson of courage, motivating a believer to be more accepting of the trials along the way of his enlightenment," he said.

"May this celebration bring forth serenity within yourselves and your respective communities, and further unite a nation that is now treading the straight path toward lasting amity and equitable progress," the President said.

The President's Day: November 7, 2011

The President had no public events today.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, in a statement, extended President Aquino's congratulations to Miss Philippines-World Gwendoline Ruais and the Philippine team that competed in the 2011 World Mathematics Team Championship in Beijing.

Ruais placed first-runner up at the 2011 Miss World Pageant held in London on November 6. The Philippines Team 1, on the other hand, composed of Farrel Eldrian Wu, Clyde Wesley Ang, Miguel Lorenzo Ildesa, Andrea Jaba, Sedrick Scott Keh, and John Aries Ceazar Hingan won second place in the said Math competition during the team contest.

Wu, moreover, garnered a gold medal and ranked first in the primary division individual contests.

The President's Day: November 8, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today went to the Aquino Center at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac to attend and deliver a keynote message in the 8th National Organic Agriculture Conference (NOAC).

The NOAC is a venue where accomplishments in organic agriculture in the country (particularly in Region III) are acclaimed. It also serves as platform for involved entities to discuss and address current and emerging issues as regards their concerned field.

During the event, the President was joined by Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala as he presented the *Gawad Saka Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer* to Benjamin Lao of Bansalan, Davao del Sur.

President Aquino then delivered a speech sharing that the Philippines remains afloat amid climate change and the global economic crisis.

He also underscored the importance of organic farming as it could raise the farmers' income and address food shortage in the country. "Dahil hindi ginagamitan ng chemical-based fertilizers, ligtas na paraan ito sa produksyon ng pagkain at malaya ito sa posibleng banta sa kalusugan at kalikasan. Nakakatulong din ito upang mapababa ang gastos sa sakahan," he said.

After the event, President Aquino proceeded back to the Malacañan Palace, where he attended a series of meetings with his Cabinet secretaries and advisers.

Also, during the day, the President appointed

Major General Emmanuel Bautista as the next commanding general of the Philippine Army. Bautista will replace Army chief Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz, who is set to retire on November 13 when he reaches the 56-year mandatory retirement age.

The President's Day: November 9, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over the 54th Philippine Army Change of Command Ceremony at the Headquarters of the Philippine Army, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

In the ceremonies, Major General Emmanuel Bautista will be replacing Lieutenant General Arturo Ortiz as the Philippine Army Commanding General. General Bautista is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1981 and the Joint Forces Staff College in Virginia; the Grade II Staff and Tactics Course in New Zealand; as well as a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He was the recipient of numerous military honors—including a Gold Cross medal for gallantry in action, the third highest military combat award.

The President was accorded full military honors upon his arrival. He also witnessed the inspection of troops, a farewell gesture in honor of General Ortiz.

Afterward, President Aquino, assisted by Mrs. Cynthia Ortiz, presented the Presidential Legion of Honor to the outgoing Commanding General.

Following the presentation of the honor, the Change of Command rituals commenced. The two generals rendered President Aquino a salute, and the latter returned the honor. The President then presided over the Hand-over of Command Symbol ceremony, passing the Philippine Army Command Saber to General Bautista to signify the new Army chief's start of command.

President Aquino, toward the end of the program, delivered a speech thanking and lauding General Ortiz for his service in the military. “Sa pagbaba sa puwesto ni Heneral Ortiz, mananatili ang kanyang legasiya sa puso’t damdamin ng ating mga kawal, dahil pinatibay niya ang pundasyon ng tapat at marangal na paglilingkod ng kasundaluhan sa Perlas ng Silangan,” he said.

The President also expressed his optimism with General Bautista's leadership given his experience, valor, and honor. “[I]naasahan ko mula sa iyo ang matinding dedikasyon, sipag at katapatan. Huwag mong bibiguin ang iyong mga Boss,” President Aquino added.

The President assured the military of the government's support as it continues to work for its modernization and provide benefits in haste.

In the afternoon, President Aquino held a press briefing, wherein he delivered a statement on the request of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to travel abroad for medical treatment. The briefing was held at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace.

In his statement, the President expressed his support for Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima's decision of denying now Representative Arroyo permission to travel abroad. “Philippine Medical Association na po mismo ang nagsabi: may sapat na kakayahan ang ating mga pagamutan upang magsagawa ng bone biopsy na kanyang hinahanap,” he said.

“Malinaw din pong may mga kasong kinakaharap si Ginang Arroyo, kabilang na ang electoral sabotage, isang non-bailable offense. At alam naman po nating haligi ng isang demokrasya ang integridad ng ating mga halalan,” added President Aquino. “Makatuwiran po ito sapagkat kinakailangan ang personal na pagharap ni Ginang Arroyo sa arraignment, kung umabot man tayo dito, at ayaw nating maunsiyami ang pag-usad ng isang kasong may napakahalagang implikasyon sa ating pong demokrasya.”

Following his press conference, the President proceeded to the Holiday Inn at Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga to deliver a keynote speech in front of the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Top-level Management Conference.

In his speech, President Aquino lauded the media for its endeavors in shedding light on issues and discourses happening in society. “Mahirap mapantayan ang iniaalay na dedikasyon ng KBP sa pagiging ikaapat na estado ng lipunan, lalo na sa kasalukuyang pamamayagpag ng modernong teknolohiya, kung saan ang tinig ng media ay mas mabilis na naitatawid upang maging tinig na rin mismo ng taumbayan.”

“Sa kabila nito, kailangan din nating aminin na hindi perpekto ang media, at tulad ng anumang institusyon na may lakas at impluwensya, may mga bulok na kamatis din na sa kasamaang palad ay naihahalo sa napakaraming napakahusay,” said the President.

“Nawa’y huwag ninyong ituring na kritisismo ang mga nabanggit ko ngayong hapon. Sa halip, tignan natin ito bilang mga konstruktibong mungkahi na magpapatibay sa papel ng media na magpamulat ng katotohanan sa puso’t diwa ng ating mga mamamayan,” he added.

The President's Day: November 10, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today flew to Bacolod to pay respects to the departed Mrs. Lourdes de la Rama Osmeña, mother of Senator Serge Osmeña III, wife of the late senator Serge Osmeña Jr. and daughter of the late senator Esteban de la Rama. She died recently at the age of 98.

The wake was held at the Redemptorist Church of Bacolod City. The President condoled with the Osmeña family for about 45 minutes; he talked with Senator Osmeña, and took photos with the rest of the family. He exited quietly through the back door.

Arriving in Manila from his trip to Bacolod City, he conducted a surprise visit to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 in order to view for himself the progress of the facility's restoration efforts.

Accompanied by Secretary of Transportation and Communications Mar Roxas, the President inspected the terminal's arrival lobby, restroom, and sleeping lounge.

In a press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that President Aquino has given directives on fast-tracking the airport's improvement. And according to reports, the President was pleased with the renovation's progress.

The President's Day: November 11, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Honolulu to attend the 19th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting.

In his departure statement, delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II, the President stressed the importance of attending APEC, as it serves as a venue for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss regional issues as well as to assist each other in facing challenges ranging from climate change to security.

“Bawat estratehiya, mungkahi at kaalaman na makakalap natin sa APEC ay maaari nating gamitin upang solusyunan ang mga suliranin sa ating bansa, at isulong ang interes ng ating mga kababayan. Ilan sa mga paksang inaasahan nating matututukan dito, at layon nating mapagbuti, ay ang seguridad ng ating ekonomiya, ang mainam na paggamit ng enerhiya, at ang paglikha ng mga karagdagang trabaho,” he said.

President Aquino, furthermore, stated that during the occasion, he would be meeting the participating countries' heads of state or government, particularly Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and that he would grab the opportunity to visit the Filipino community in Hawaii, as well.

“Sa pagbalik po natin dito sa Pilipinas sa darating na Martes, tiwala akong uuwi tayo nang may mas matibay na ugnayan sa mga karatig-bansa at may bitbit na mas maraming pagkakataon para sa atin pong mga minamahal na kababayan,” said the President.

Boarding Philippine Airlines Flight PR001, President Aquino flew to Honolulu. He is expected to arrive at around 8 a.m. at Hickam Airbase.

The President's Day: November 12, 2011

This is the first day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's trip to Hawaii to participate in the 19th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting.

At around 8 a.m. (Hawaiian time), Philippine Airlines Flight PR001 landed at Hickam Airbase. Upon arrival, the President was welcomed by Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia Jr., with an accompanying delegation of U.S. government officials.

President Aquino was escorted to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, where he would be billeted throughout his stay in Hawaii.

That afternoon, the President attended the APEC CEO Summit—a venue for business leaders in the Asia-Pacific to discuss issues and developments affecting the region. It was held at the Sheraton Waikiki's Maui Hawaii Ballroom,

The occasion started with an interview with President Aquino by Bloomberg Business Week Senior Editor Diane Brady—the summit's moderator.

After the interview, Brady requested China National Cereals, Oils, and Foodstuff Corporation CEO Frank Gaoning; Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, Inc. President and CEO Richard Adkerson; and Global Markets, China, JP Morgan Managing Director and Chairman Jane Ulrich to join the President for a panel discussion on commodity security for economic growth.

During the discussion, President Aquino answered queries on how his administration manages food, energy, and mineral security.

In the evening, the President attended the APEC CEO-Leaders' dinner. The occasion was organized in such that each APEC member economy would be hosted at separate private residences. Each leader would be joined by a cluster of business leaders from various APEC companies.

President Aquino's dinner was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cassiday in their 89-year old home built on a lava path of the Diamond Head volcanic cone of Honolulu.

The President's Day: November 13, 2011

Today marked President Benigno S. Aquino III's second day of participation in the 19th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting.

At around 9 a.m. (Hawaiian time), the President visited Pearl Harbor. He was accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, and Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

At the historical naval base, President Aquino visited the USS *Arizona* Memorial, a facility accessible only by boat, built above the wreckage of the USS *Arizona* and that was built in memory of the crewmen who lost their lives during the December 7, 1941 attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The structure features a section where the names of the crewmen are engraved. The President, during his visit, offered a wreath in their honor.

In the afternoon, President Aquino met with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard at the Honolulu Suite of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Prime Minister Gillard, during the meeting, personally invited the President to visit Australia next year.

Following the bilateral meeting, President Aquino departed the hotel for Hale Koa Maile Garden to attend a dinner held in honor of APEC leaders and their spouses. In the event, President Aquino was welcomed by U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife, First Lady Michelle. The three of them then engaged in a photo shoot and shared a table for the evening.

Afterward, President Aquino proceeded back to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel to meet the Philippine media to cap the night and talk about the day's events.

The President's Day: November 14, 2011

This is the last day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's participation in the 19th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

This morning, the President engaged in the first session of the AELM held at the JW Marriott Ihilina Resort, and which focused on concerns regarding growth and jobs in the Asia-Pacific region. During the meeting, President Aquino was able to expound on his administration's human welfare projects and programs against corruption.

Later, the President, with the other leaders of APEC member economies, proceeded to the JW Marriott Hotel in Kapolei, Honolulu, for the traditional APEC leaders' family photo (see above).

Following the taking of the photograph, the second and final session of the AELM commenced. The subject of the session focused on energy efficiency and security.

At the conclusion of the summit, the leaders of the APEC member economies pledged their commitment for the environment, strengthening economic integration, expansion of trade, and renewed their commitment to anti-protectionism, or economic policies restraining trade.

In the evening, before boarding a flight back to the Philippines, President Aquino joined members of the Filipino community in Hawaii, who were gathered for a banquet held in the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

President Aquino talked about the improving situation in the Philippines. He told the Filipinos of Hawaii of how the government managed its resources; which resulted to more classrooms built, agricultural reforms, and social welfare benefits for the people—"all without having to raise new taxes."

"Walk alongside me, and let us clear whatever obstacles they may be. Let us show the world the true force behind bayanihan—one country treading the path. As one country, let us work toward the fulfillment of our shared hopes," said President Aquino.

The President's Day: November 15, 2011

Early this morning, President Aquino arrived from his trip to Hawaii to participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) World Leader's Meeting. At around 2 a.m., his flight arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal II. The President was welcomed by members of his Cabinet, military officers, and local government officials.

In his arrival statement, the President reported what was discussed during the APEC meeting. The subjects tackled include energy efficiency and security, job generation, and strengthening the Asia-Pacific region's economy.

“Ang bunga ng mga inisyatibang ipinunla sa APEC ngayong taon ay aanihin at pakikinabangan, hindi lamang ng kasalukuyang henerasyon, kundi maging ng susunod pang salinlahi,” he said.

The President said he was able to meet with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Taiwanese envoy Dr. Lien Chan, as well as the large Filipino community of Hawaii.

“Talaga naman pong napawi ang pagod at puyat ng buong delegasyon dahil sa mainit nilang pagtanggap sa amin, lalo pa nang malaman kong namamayagpag ang mga kababayan natin sa Hawaii sa iba't ibang larangan,” he said.

President Aquino also announced the country's participation in the ASEAN Summit in Bali, for which he will be leaving on November 17 to 19.

The President's Day: November 16, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III again met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who had arrived in the Philippines the previous day.

The President received her and her delegation at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of Malacañan Palace.

With President Aquino were Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr.; Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert Del Rosario; Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima; Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo; Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II; Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin; Secretary of Justice Leila De Lima; Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles; Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala; Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning Cayetano Paderanga, Jr.; Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda; National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia; Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Ramon Liwag; Undersecretary Benito Ramos of the NDRRMC; PHL Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia, Jr.; and Assistant Secretary Patricia Ann Paez of the Office of American Affairs, DFA.

Following the meeting, the President proceeded to the Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall. There, President Aquino conferred the Order of Lakandula with the Rank of Bayani (Grand Cross) to Secretary Clinton.

The Order of Lakandula with the Rank of Bayani is "conferred upon an individual who has devoted his life to the peaceful resolution of conflict; upon an individual whose life is worthy of emulation by the Filipino people; or upon a Crown Prince, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice or the equivalent, foreign minister or other official of cabinet rank, Ambassador, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing." (Ref.)

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte was the master of ceremonies of the occasion.

After the conferment ceremonies, the President witnessed the signing of the Partnership of Growth with Secretary Clinton and Secretary del Rosario as signatories for the U.S. and the Philippines, respectively.

Afterward, President Aquino and Secretary Clinton engaged in a luncheon held at the President's Hall.

The President's Day: November 17, 2011

At 8 a.m. this morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Bali, Indonesia via Bombardier Challenger 850 to participate in the 19th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits.

Before he left, the President released a departure statement saying that topics to be tackled during the summit would include the welfare of migrant workers, trafficking in persons, maritime security, and peace talks.

“Susulitin natin ang mga oportunidad na ito upang plantsahin ang anumang gusot sa ating mga bansa at upang patatagin pa ang ating samahan,” he said.

At around noon, President Aquino arrived at the Ngurah Rai International Airport, where he was received by Indonesian officials. From there, the President was escorted to the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa, where he would be billeted for the duration of the summit.

Following his stop at the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa, President Aquino proceeded to the Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC) to catch the 19th ASEAN Summit Retreat Session and its conclusion at the BNDCC's Nusa Dua 3 and Nusa Dua 4, respectively.

Upon arrival at the BNDCC, the President was welcomed by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

After the meetings, President Aquino joined fellow ASEAN leaders for the signing of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations held at the BNDCC's Nusa Dua 5.

The President's Day: November 18, 2011

Today marked President Benigno S. Aquino III's second day of participation at the 19th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Bali.

This morning, the President headed to the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center's (BNDCC) Nusa Dua 3 to attend the 14th ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit— an event in commemoration of 20 years of ASEAN and Chinese relations.

President Aquino joined his fellow leaders of the ASEAN Member States, and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

The Summit delved on matters of peace and stability, as well as concerns on the West Philippine Sea.

Also, in the same venue, the launching of the ASEAN-China Center took place.

Following the launch, the President attended the 14th ASEAN-Japan Summit then proceeded to the Grand Hyatt for a bilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama. The meeting took place at the Hyatt's Grand Ballroom, Tabanan I and II.

After the meeting, President Aquino headed back to the BNDCC for the 14th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

Other meetings also attended by the President during the day were the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the 3rd ASEAN-United States of America Leaders' Meeting held at the BNDCC's Nusa Dua 4 and Nusa Dua 3, respectively.

The President's Day: November 19, 2011

This is the last day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's participation in the 19th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Bali.

At around 9 a.m., the President attended the 4th ASEAN-United Nations Summit at the Bali International Convention Center's (BICC) Nusantara 3.

The event is part of a string of meetings scheduled for the leaders of ASEAN Member States to discuss the five priority areas— namely, the Millennium Development Goals, peace and security, human rights, improvement in Myanmar, and strengthening ASEAN-UN relations.

Afterward, at the BICC's Nusantara 1-2, President Aquino engaged at the 6th East Asia Summit Plenary Session. The forum served as a platform for discussion of economic and political strategies for the common interest of the East Asian countries.

In the afternoon, the President and fellow Heads of State/Government provided a moment for a photo shoot at the Nusantara 3, BICC before proceeding to the BICC's Jakarta Room A-B for the 6th East Asia Summit-Retreat Session.

Following the retreat, the 19th ASEAN Summit concluded with closing ceremonies and remarks from host, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

At around 6 p.m., President Aquino headed to the Ngurah Rai International Airport. He boarded Bombardier Challenger 850 for his trip back to Manila.

The President and his delegation touched ground at around 10:00 p.m at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

Upon arrival, President Aquino delivered an arrival statement reporting the events that happened during the summit. According to the President, highlights of his trip include the signing of Bali Concord 3, forging of agricultural agreements, and pushing advocacies for Filipino migrant workers.

The President's Day: November 20, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: November 21, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today met with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

At Malacañan Palace grounds, President Aquino received President Myung-bak, who was received with full honors, and escorted him to the Palace's Reception Hall, where President Myung-bak signed the Palace guestbook.

Afterward, President Aquino, with his Cabinet Secretaries, sat with President Myung-bak and his whole visiting delegation paid President Aquino a courtesy call at the Palace Music Room.

After pleasantries, both parties then proceeded to the Aguinaldo State Dining Room for a bilateral meeting, after which President Aquino and President Myung-bak witnessed the signing of agreements with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kim Sung-hwan as signatory for the Philippines and South Korea, respectively.

The agreements included loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea and a framework for an aid grant for the next five years.

Three memoranda of understanding were also signed. They encompass initiatives for power generation, food security, and job creation.

Following the signing of agreements, both presidents delivered a joint press statement.

President Aquino in his statement highlighted "the strong and growing people-to-people relations" between Korea and the Philippines. He also commended Korea's foreign workforce program, Employment Permit System (EPS): "The EPS system ensures that the more than 20,000 Filipinos working in the Republic of Korea will receive the proper treatment and the benefits commensurate to the critical jobs they perform toward the growth of the Korean economy."

The President also expressed his delight in the rise in number of Korean nationals staying in the Philippines. "This is a clear indication of the pleasant and comfortable living and working environments in the Philippines, which our government is constantly striving to improve."

After statements were delivered, President Aquino and President Myung-bak proceeded to the Manila Hotel to join the Korea-Philippines Business Forum-CEO roundtable meeting.

In the evening, President Aquino hosted a banquet in honor of the South Korean President. The celebration was held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The Republic of Korea is the 5th largest trade partner of the Philippines. It remains to be the country's top foreign tourist source and has more than 115,000 citizens taking up permanent residence in the Philippines.

The President's Day: November 22, 2011

Today president Aquino convened his advisers in the President's Hall for a meeting to discuss the National Climate Change Action Plan, which will comply with the country's international commitment to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention, among others, and which will be the basis of any compensatory assistance that will come from developed countries with industries responsible for massive use of fossil fuels.

The meeting was held after noon. In the morning and late in the day, the President worked on state papers.

The President's Day: November 23, 2011

Today, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) celebrates its 75th anniversary.*

In ceremonies held at the NBI gymnasium in Ermita, Manila, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech lauding the NBI for its efforts and triumphs amid the danger that comes with the job.

“Gaya ng inaasahan, tanging positibo ang mga nagiging bunga ng pagtutok ng NBI sa pagsugpo ng krimen at pagtugis sa mga kawatan,” said the President, who assured the NBI of the administration’s support.

“Lilinangin pa natin ang inyong mga kakayahan at pag-iibayuhin ang inyong mga pagsasanay, kaakibat na rin ang pagpapaunlad sa inyong mga pasilidad,” he said.

Also during the event, the President, assisted by NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula and Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, presented plaques of recognition to the recipients of the NBI-Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (NBI-PRAISE).

Following the event, President Aquino recieved a call from Mexican First Lady Margarita Zavala, who was in the country a two-day visit.

After noon, the President received a farewell call from State of Qatar Ambassador Abdulla Ahmed Yousif Al-Mutawa.

The rest of President Aquino’s afternoon was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: November 24, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: November 25, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III, upon the invitation of Governor Joey Salceda, flew to Albay to lead the inauguration of the Climate Change Academy (CCA) and to deliver a message at the Media Conference on Climate Change Adaptation (MCCCA), held at the Bicol University (BU) campus in Legazpi City.

At around 10 a.m., the President took off from Villamor Airbase. Upon touchdown, he was escorted via land transportation to the BU.

As he entered the university premises, President Aquino proceeded to the CCA building and led the unveiling of the Climate Change Academy marker.

Afterward, the President went to the BU Amphitheater for a short program.

During the program, President Aquino delivered a speech depicting the challenges brought by climate change. He said not only do the calamities affect the national economy but they also pose threats to the lives of the people.

He assured the citizens of the government's efforts to address climate change dilemmas, among them: an ongoing geohazard mapping initiative, Automated Weather Stations, and the National Climate Change Action Plan.

After the program, President Aquino was supposed to directly fly back to Manila. However, because of technical dilemmas, the President's flight was delayed. He arrived in Manila in the late afternoon.

The President's Day: November 26, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on State papers.

The President's Day: November 27, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: November 28, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings within Malacañan Palace and working on state papers.

The President's Day: November 29, 2011 This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the Sofitel Philippine Plaza to deliver a keynote speech at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Congress. The Congress is in lieu with the 2011–2016 Philippine Development Plan, which includes mainstreaming the concerns of persons with disabilities (PWD) into the Philippine economic and social development agenda as part of pursuing inclusive growth. It aims to promote the practice of community-based inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region; promote multi-sectoral partnerships for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and other development initiatives; and explore the possibilities of forming the CBR Global Network, among others.

In ceremonies held at the Sofitel's Grand Plaza Ballroom, the President delivered a speech highlighting justice, stressing that the agenda of the Aquino administration's efforts is the "desire to guarantee equity."

"When we promised inclusive growth, we promised it to all Filipinos, including those who by virtue of certain limitations, tend to be thought of as being unable to contribute to society," he said.

The President said he was happy local government units (LGUs) have taken initiative to adopt community rehabilitation strategies. The national government, he said, supports the LGUs' efforts. "We have centers that can provide rehabilitation and care to persons with disabilities, and programs that can help them stand on their own two feet, by providing them with access to training and employment opportunities."

However, the President urged everyone not to be complacent amid positive developments. "This is the attitude that all of us must adopt, not merely in improving the lives of persons with disabilities, but in improving the lives of people," he said.

"My message of today is clear: if we work hard, if we work together, if we work in the name of justice, if we do not stray from the straight and righteous path—we will arrive at the destination we have all aspired for from the very beginning: a Philippines, an Asia, and a world that prospers under the clear light of day," President Aquino said.

After lunch, the President, in a courtesy call held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace, welcomed members of the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. (CSFI)—an organization composed of the spouses of members of the House of Representatives.

President Aquino, during the occasion, granted the CSFI members a photo opportunity.

Later in the afternoon, the President attended the Grand Launch of the Bayleaf Boutique Hotel at Intramuros, Manila.

During ceremonies held at the hotel's Muralla Ballroom, President Aquino delivered his message focusing on tourism. He said the Philippines is blessed with rich culture, and the Bayleaf hotel has allowed access for local and foreign tourists to have an experience of the country's history.

"Lalo pang naging makabuluhan ang mga kontribusyon ng The Bayleaf dahil magsisilbi rin itong pandayan ng husay at kakayahan ng mga estudyante ng Hotel, Restaurant, and Culinary courses mula sa Lyceum of the Philippines University," the President added.

Afterward, President Aquino proceeded to the University of Santo Tomas (UST) for the 10th Congress of the International Society Dacryology and Dry Eye.

In his speech delivered at the UST Quadricentennial Complex, the President congratulated the delegates for the success of their congress. He also invited them to tour the country and experience the sites the Philippines has to offer.

President Aquino said he likens the current government to the doctors' profession. "In the same way that you are concerned with ensuring that the eyes of your patients are free from these diseases, so too is our government concerned with freeing society from the diseases that had previously crippled it: the disease of poverty and vulnerability, of corruption and dishonesty, and of social inequality and the lack of access to social services, among others," he said.

The President said his administration has already been releasing funds to improve healthcare programs and projects in the country.

"In the same way that you have brought experts from all over the world to speak on a variety of topics to better understand dacryology and dry eye, so too has our government been implementing different solutions that will, hopefully, enable us to fulfill our promise of universal health care," he said.

The President's Day: November 30, 2011

Today, the country celebrated Bonifacio Day, to commemorate the birth of national hero and founder of the Katipunan, Andres Bonifacio. The Deputy Spokesperson, Abigail Valte, released a statement on behalf of the President. Read the Deputy Spokesperson's [statement here](#).

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 1, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 2011 Bagong Bayani Awards Ceremony, where recognition is given to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) who have showed exemplary acts during their service abroad.

The ceremonies were held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace. The President presented the awards to the recipients and delivered a message of thanks for the OFWs' sacrifices in honor and in aid of the country.

"Saludo po ako sa 'di-matatawarang dedikasyon at sakripisyo ng ating mga OFWs. Malayo man sa kanilang tahanan, buong tatag at sigasig pa rin sila sa pagkayod upang mabigyan ng maginhawang buhay at kinabukasan ang kanilang pamilya," said President Aquino.

"Hindi man kayo gumagamit ng mga sandata sa pakikibaka, pinapalaya ninyo ang bayan mula sa pagkakagapos nito sa kahirapan—mga bayani kayong ipinupuhunan ang dugo, pawis, at pagod upang itaas ang antas ng kabuhayan ng inyong pamilya at ng ekonomiya," he added.

Following the event, the President attended meetings with his advisers, and in the evening, proceeded to the Peninsula Manila in Makati to attend the Makati Business Club's 30th Anniversary Celebration.

In his speech, President Aquino congratulated the organization for the milestone they have achieved, and for their active participation in the country's development. He also talked about the issues of the day, focusing on the relationship between the Executive and the Judiciary as coequal branches of government, and the interplay between all sectors and institutions.

To read the full transcript of his speech, please [click here](#).

Also, this evening, the President led the ceremonial lighting of Malacañan Palace grounds and the Christmas tree of the Office of the President, in which he announced to his extended staff that he has already signed the [Department of Budget and Management's request](#) to release productivity incentives for government employees.

The President's Day: December 2, 2011

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 3, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to Concepcion, Tarlac, to attend the 5th *Belenismo sa Tarlac* Awards Night.

The Belenismo sa Tarlac is a festival that incorporates a competition of different Belen-making categories. The event was established in 2007 by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation and Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church to propagate tourism in the area.

In ceremonies held at the Col. Jesus Lapus Memorial Sports Complex, the President delivered a speech and presented awards to the winners of the seven categories: High School Diorama, Personal Diorama, Church category, Monumental category, Grand Municipal, Grand Non-Municipal, and Congressional District Office categories.

The President's Day: December 4, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 5, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Manila Hotel to attend the 1st National Criminal Justice Summit, a nationwide gathering of legal entities and concerned civil society groups, to discuss and propose solutions plaguing the country's criminal justice system.

In ceremonies held at the hotel's Centennial Hall, the President delivered a speech in which he talked about the current relationship of the Executive and Judicial branches of government.

In the afternoon, President Aquino received UK Minister of State Jeremy Browne, who went to Malacañan Palace for a courtesy call. Afterward, President Aquino received farewell calls from New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Andrew Graeme Matheson and Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Rod Smith. The President conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Datu to Ambassadors Matheson and Smith in ceremonies held at the Palace's Music Room.

Following the farewell calls, President Aquino attended meetings.

This evening he proceeded to Cubao, Quezon City, to attend the Liberal Party Fellowship, Oath Taking Ceremony and Christmas Party.

The occasion was held at the Balay Expo Building, Araneta Center.

The President's Day: December 6, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to the Peninsula Manila in Makati City to attend the 22nd Ninoy and Cory Aquino Fellowship Awards for Professional Development.

The fellowship awards was established by the U.S. Embassy in 1988 to commemorate the achievements of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. in media and public service. The name of the fellowship was later changed to the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Fellowship Awards after the passing away of former President Corazon Aquino in 2009.

The President conferred the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Fellowship for Journalism on Fr. Eduardo “Ponpon” Vasquez, an Oblates priest, news correspondent, and founder of i-Watch Media, a documentary production group known for filming the armed conflicts in Mindanao, particularly North Cotabato. Because of the many death threats he receives—Fr. Ponpon calls himself a “dead man walking” [[ref.](#)]¹—his congregation asked him to go on hiatus for his safety.

The Ninoy and Cory Aquino fellowship for Public Service was conferred upon Lieutenant Junior Grade Roberto Mamaril Beltran, a member of the Naval Special Operations Group – Unit 2 based in La Union. He is the younger brother of three soldiers who died in action in Mindanao conflicts, and yet he appealed to his mother to let him serve “on behalf of his brothers,” with a vision of helping to achieve peace in the region. The U.S. Embassy describes Beltran as “a deeply compassionate Special Operations Officer who has exhibited the potential to excel through the ranks while inspiring others to public service.

During his speech, President Aquino addressed the two awardees: “allow me to say to both of you that you will always have my admiration and respect for what you have given to the Filipino people.” Later, the President went to the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City for the Bulong Pulungan annual Christmas party and recognition day for outstanding public servants and private individuals.

The Bulong Pulungan is a media forum that provides newsmakers an opportunity to address queries on current issues in an informal setting.

President Aquino presented the Exemplar Awards for public service to the following government officials:

1. Hon. Proceso J. Alcala
2. Hon. Edward S. Hagedorn
3. Vice Adm. Alexander P. Pama
4. Ms. Margarita P. Juico
5. Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

President Aquino himself received the Peace and Justice Award.

In his [speech](#), the President encouraged Bulong Pulungan to strengthen their endeavor more, so the public may be empowered.

“Napakalaki po ng potensyal niyong makatulong sa tuloy-tuloy na pag-usad natin sa tuwid na daan. Sa bawat sulat ninyo, sa bawat ulat ninyo, nag-iiwan kayo ng marka sa publiko,” he said.

The President spent the rest of the day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: December 7, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over two awards ceremonies in Malacañan Palace today.

At the Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall, the President presented distinctions to the recipients of the 2011 The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Awards—an honor given to individuals between ages 18 and 40, who have shown dedication to their respective causes resulting in significant contributions to the country.

During his speech, President Aquino congratulated the winners and urged them to further their endeavors so as to inspire more Filipinos to push themselves to greater excellence.

“Instead of looking at this award as a guarantee that you will go on to be leaders of our country, it should instead serve as a challenge for you to be an example—a living inspiration—of the best that our country can be,” he said.

Former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. was a recipient of this distinction when he was 28 years old.

Afterward, the President attended the 2011 Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA) ceremonies at the Palace's Heroes Hall. He bestowed the awards to 12 barangays, whose lupon was proclaimed as most outstanding barangay courts for 2011 out of 39,348 committees nationwide. The winners were chosen for their exemplary performance in resolving petty disputes of their constituents, thereby contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) program, and in the maintenance of peace and harmony in their respective villages.

President Aquino, assisted by Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, presented the presidential trophy and a cash prize of P200,000 to each of the national winners, and a plaque of recognition and cash prize of P50,000 and P30,000 to each of the first and second runners-up, respectively.

The following are this year's Lupong Tagapamayapa (LT) national winners and runners-up:

- For most outstanding LT in highly urbanized cities: national winner, LT of Brgy. Adlaon, Cebu City; first runner-up, LT of Brgy. Katangawan, General Santos City; and second runner-up, LT of Brgy. Onse, San Juan City, Metro Manila .
- For most outstanding LT in component cities: national winner, LT of Brgy. Tuyo, Balanga City, Bataan; first runner-up, LT of Brgy. 1, San Lorenzo, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; and second runner-up, LT of Brgy. Kalasungay, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.
- For most outstanding LT in first to third class municipalities: national winner, LT of Brgy. Bailan, Pontevedra, Capiz; first runner-up, LT of Brgy. Lopez Jaena, Norala South Cotabato; and second runner-up, LT of Brgy. Poblacion, Barobo, Surigao del Sur.
- For most outstanding LT in fourth to sixth class municipalities: national winner, LT of Brgy. Quezon, Mainit, Surigao del Norte; first runner-up, LT of Brgy. Hingatungan, Silago, Southern Leyte; and second runner-up, LT of Brgy. Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet. [Ref.]

The President also delivered a lively speech in which he praised the barangay officials for their dedication to their 24/7 jobs at the frontline of government service.

To read a full transcript of the speech, please [click here](#).

The rest of President Aquino's day was spent in meetings.

The President's Day: December 8, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Lipa City in Batangas to lead the inauguration of the new Epson Precision Philippines, Inc. (EPPI) facility.

EPPI is one of the two manufacturing subsidiaries of Seiko Epson Corporation in the country. It is a registered Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) enterprise as well.

The inauguration was held at the Lima Technology Center. The President inspected the new factory and delivered a speech, thanking the company for choosing to expand its business in the Philippines amid trying times for the international market.

"I'd also like to point out that the inauguration of this factory significantly contributes to one of the cornerstones of our economy—the electronics industry," he said.

According to President Aquino, the electronics industry employs around half a million Filipinos, with its number still growing.

"It is a point of pride for me that companies like Epson, who already have a workforce of more than six thousand people in this country, have been impressed enough by the skill of our workers to expand their manufacturing operations here," the President said.

The President's Day: December 9, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent this morning in meetings with his advisers.

In the afternoon, he proceeded to the Palace's Heroes Hall for the Urban Poor Solidarity Week and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) 25th anniversary celebration. President Corazon Aquino created the PCUP in 1986 to serve as a direct link of the urban poor to the government; and in 1989, she issued Proclamation No. 367 declaring December 2 to 8 of every year as Urban Poor Solidarity Week to foster unity and dialogue among government agencies and urban poor communities and in order to promote programs for the alleviation of urban poverty. During the celebration President Benigno S. Aquino received a plaque of *Pasasalamat kay Pangulong Cory* in honor of this.

He also bore witness to a pledge of support of those present to the 10-point Covenant with the Urban Poor, and the PCUP Advocacy.

He also presented the *Pagkilala Awards* to 19 recipients from various sectors for their support for the welfare of the urban poor, as well as *Natatanging Paglilingkod Awards* to 10 deserving urban poor leaders who have been instrumental in the empowerment of the sector.

The President delivered a speech in which he assured that the government would be releasing annual funds under the administration's Disbursement Acceleration Program, to support the PCUP's advocacy and hasten anti-poverty efforts. He cited that the government has allotted at least 10 billion pesos for the construction of vertical housing units for the in-city solution and implementation of a balik-probinsya program as an off-city solution.

The President's Day: December 10, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 11, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 12, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Headquarters at the Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The AFP held their Change of Command Ceremony with Lt. Gen. Jessie D. Dellosa replacing Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. as the Chief of Staff of the AFP. Gen. Dellosa was the commander of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom). He is a recipient of several military merit and commendation medals, including such honors as Bronze and Gold Cross Medals and the Distinguished Service Star Award, among others. Upon arrival, the President was rendered full military honors.

During the ceremonies, President Aquino presided over the Testimonial Review in honor of Gen. Oban. The President, assisted by Mrs. Maria Concepcion Oban and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin, conferred the Presidential Legion of Honor and citation to Gen. Oban.

The change of command ceremony was directly followed by the turn-over of Command Symbol and presentation of honors to Gen. Oban, with President Aquino presiding.

In his speech, the President thanked Gen. Oban for his service as chief of staff. He said Gen. Oban has brought honor and the public's trust back to the Armed Forces amid all the criticism surrounding the institution before he came to office.

President Aquino then turned to incoming Chief of Staff Gen. Dellosa: "Kay Lieutenant General Dellosa: huwag mong tatalikuran ang mandato mo sa taumbayan. Isabuhay mo ang katapangan, integridad, at katapatan sa bansa upang mapanghawakan mo ang iyong sinumpaang tungkulin sa ating bandila."

The President also gave assurance of the government's support to further modernize the AFP.

To read a full transcript of the President's speech, please [click here](#).

Following the event, President Aquino proceeded to the Philippine Army General Hospital, also in Taguig, to hand family packs to the soldiers billeted in the hospital. The gift-giving project is a PAGCOR endeavor under the *Pamaskong Handog ng PAGCOR 2011* project. The President and with PAGCOR Chairman Cristino Naguiat Jr. handed out P4.515 million as financial assistance to three Philippine Army hospitals.

The rest of President Aquino's day was spent in engagements with other government agencies.

The President's Day: December 14, 2011

This morning, President Aquino headed to Manila's South Harbor this morning, where lead the commissioning and christening of the following Philippine Navy's the BRP Tagbanua (AT296), the BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (PF-15), a helicopter (PNH-422), and the Presidential yacht, the BRP Ang Pangulo.

During the program, the President, in his speech, stressed the importance of water defense with the Philippines being an archipelago.

"At upang maitaguyod po ito, hindi na maaari ang mga kakarag-karag na mga sasakyan at mga luma at palyadong kagamitan," he said.

"Kongkreto patunay po ang mga sasakyang pandagat at panghimpapawid na ito sa ating pagsusumikap na palakasin ang puwersa ng ating Hukbong Dagat, at patibayin ang tanggulan ng ating bansa," President Aquino added.

The President said the new vehicles were the result of threading the true and righteous path. "Hindi man kalakihan ang ating pondo, pero sinusulit po natin ang paggamit ditto," he said.

In the afternoon, President Aquino received Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Raden Mohammad Marty M. Natalegawa in a courtesy call held at Malacañan Palace's Music Room.

Following the call, the President, accompanied by Undersecretary of Communications Manuel L. Quezon III, granted Emily Rauhala of Time Magazine an interview. Emily Rauhala was received also in the Palace's Music Room.

Thereafter, President Aquino spent the rest of his day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: December 15, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today signed the 2012 General Appropriations Act in ceremonies held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The P1.816-trillion budget increased by 10.4 percent from fiscal year 2011. It is the earliest appropriations act approved since 1986.

The President, in his statement, thanked the Philippine Congress and the Department of Budget and Management for their hasty response in passing the budget.

“Nakatuon po tayo sa isang simpleng paninindigan: na ang bawat pisong ginagasta ng pamahalaan ay napapakinabangan ng mamamayan—lalo na ng mahihirap—sa paraang tuwiran, agaran, at makabuluhan,” he said.

He discussed how the budget was apportioned among the various sectors in society.

To view the detailed account of the 2012 National Budget, click [here](#).

“Inatasan ko na po ang mga kagawaran at ahensiya natin na simulan nang asikasuhin ang pagpapa-bidding at pagkontrata sa mga proyekto, lalo na ang imprastruktura,” said President Aquino.

“Inatasan ko na rin ang DBM na siyasatin at baguhin ang mga prosesong nagpapabagal sa pagpapatupad sa mga programa at proyekto,” he added.

Following the signing ceremony, the President granted the media an ambush interview. He announced that a ceasefire agreement was made between government and rebel groups. The agreement, according to President Aquino, would last from December 16 until January 2, 2012.

Afterward, the President received Meritus Hotels and Resorts CEO Michael Sengol, Mohamed Mustafa and Samsuddin Corp. Managing Director Mustaq Ahmad, and Amara Holdings CEO Albert Teo in a courtesy call held at the Palace's Music Room.

The meeting was a chance to engage the foreign businessmen to invest in the country and produce more jobs for the Filipino people.

After the courtesy call, President Aquino presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 16, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: December 17, 2011

The President cancelled his engagements today. He was at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) office and was briefed by Undersecretary Benito Ramos about the situation of the areas struck by Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi).

The President's Day: December 18, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in monitoring the effects of Tropical Storm Sendong, attending engagements, and working on State papers.

The President's Day: December 19, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today spent his day in engagements in Malacañan Palace.

Before noon, he received Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao in a farewell call at the Palace's Music Room.

During the ceremony, President Aquino conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Datu upon Ambassador Jianchao.

The Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic value conferred upon an individual with valuable contributions in strengthening relations between their respective country and the Philippines. It is commonly conferred upon diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states. The Order is conferred upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the home office and in Foreign Service, as well. [*Ref*]

Following the farewell call, the President welcomed Ambassadors-designate Ali Asghar Mohammadi of Iran and Roberto Carlos Vallarino Moreno of Panama in the Music Room. Both ambassadors presented their credentials to President Aquino as they set to begin their tenure of office in the Philippines.

This afternoon, President Aquino attended engagements and presided over a Cabinet meeting held at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace.

Furthermore, during the day, the President administered the oath of the new Officers-in-Charge of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during ceremonies held at the President's Hall. President Aquino swore-in Mujiv Hataman and Bainon Karon as Governor and Vice Governor respectively.

The President's Day: December 20, 2011

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to Villamor Air Base in Pasay City to depart for Cagayan de Oro to inspect and assess the situation brought by Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi) as well as to condole with the affected families and offer aid in the form of relief goods.

Upon arrival at the Tactical Operations Group (TOG) 10 in Cagayan de Oro City, President Aquino was briefed about the situation in the area. After the briefing, the President announced his plan of declaring a National State of Calamity.

At around noon, the President departed for Iligan City via Presidential Chopper. President Aquino conducted an aerial inspection before landing at the Iligan City National High School (ICNHS) at Barangay Mahayahay.

Upon arrival, the President proceeded to the ICNHS Cooperative Office for a meeting and briefing with Iligan City officials led by Mayor Lawrence Cruz.

Following the briefing, President Aquino proceeded to the ICNHS auditorium to distribute relief goods. He also handed a check to Mayor Cruz to hasten rehabilitation efforts and took the chance to sympathize and share words with the evacuees, as well.

After his visit to Iligan, the President headed back to Cagayan de Oro City and proceeded to the City Central School to distribute relief goods upon arrival.

During his visit, President Aquino delivered a statement sharing the efforts poured by government and civil society entities.

However, the President called on the Filipinos to heed government advisories on predicted calamities. “Paulit-ulit din po ang ating panawagan: kung tatangi kayong lumikas sa panahon ng sakuna, hindi lang po buhay ninyo ang nalalagay sa panganib, kundi pati na rin ang rescuer na itataya ang sariling buhay para sa inyong kapakanan,” he said.

President Aquino, furthermore, announced that he would be signing the National State of Calamity when he returns to Manila to mobilize mechanisms for fund generation.

The President has also formed a taskforce group composed of members from chosen government agencies to look into the disaster incident.

After activities in Cagayan de Oro, the President headed to Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental to attend a briefing of the city's condition then headed back to Manila afterward.

The President's Day: December 21, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in celebrating their 75th AFP Day.

In ceremonies held at the AFP General Headquarters Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, the President delivered a speech for lauding the AFP for all its endeavors in safeguarding the country and responding in rescue operations during calamities.

“Marami pa po tayong makakasalubong na mga hamon, subalit nananatiling buo ang ating loob na magpatuloy dahil kasama ko po kayong lahat,” said President Aquino. “Sa harap ng mga banta ng masasamang elemento; sa panganib na hatid ng mga kalamidad, hindi magpapagapi ang hanay ng ating mga sundalo alang-alang sa kapakanan at kaligtasan ng mga Pilipino.”

The President further assured the AFP of government support.

Also, during the event, President Aquino led the ceremony of the awarding of deserving personnel.

The awardees are as follows:

Cpl. Isagani Zamora (PN/Marines); BGen. Nestor Anonuevo; 1Lt. Guy Ray Madrid (PA); Cpl. Abraham Parreno (PA); MGen. Francisco Cruz Jr.; Col. Oscar Lactao (PA); RAdm. Edgardo Tamayo; Ret. Col. Bradley Turner of the United States Marine Corps; Caggu Active Auxillary Eddie Castro; SSg. Jeffrey Feria (PAF); 1st Class Cadet Lt. Col. Charles Anthony Catabras; 1st Class Cadet Col. Jenith Brene Corpis; Raniel Sacramento, civilian employee from the PAF; and Nelson Canovas, civilian employee from the PN.

After noon, the President headed to the Pasay City Motorpool Unit to preside over the groundbreaking ceremonies of the construction of Socialized Housing Units intended for Pasay City Informal Settler Families.

In his speech, President Aquino said the project is evidence that the Philippines is indeed treading the “true and righteous path.”

He also expressed his hope that the project would serve as an inspiration for them: “Dahil naman po sa araw na ito, kumpiyansa ako, sa mga darating na mga taon: hindi malayong kayo na ang maging number one pagdating sa pagtulong sa mga maralitang tagalungsod.”

Moreover, during the day, the President signed Administrative Order No. 25 creating an inter-agency task force that will “harmonize, unify, streamline and simplify all existing monitoring and reporting requirements.” The task force would be chaired by the Department of Budget and Management.

The rest of the President's day was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: December 22, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III today proceeded to the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City to lead the Batang Pinoy Grand Christmas Celebration.

The event is an initiative of the Department of Social Welfare and Development to prevent children from begging on the streets and to provide a learning venue, as well.

In his speech, President Aquino encouraged the children to be good Filipinos and assured them of his support.

“Narito po kaming mga nakakatanda para isakatuparan ang wish na ito. Gumagawa kami ng mga paraan para bigyan kayo ng pagkakataon na maranasan din ang pinagdaanan ng karaniwang mga bata: pag-aaral sa eskuwela, pakikipaglaro sa mga kaibigan, at pag-aaruga ng mga maituturing ninyong pamilya,” he said.

The President, during the event, gave gift packages to the children. With him were his nephews Josh and Bimby, Kris Aquino, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Dinky Soliman, and Ms. Universe Runner up Venus Raj.

Following the event, President Aquino went to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 to greet the arriving Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

The activity is a way of the President to show his appreciation for the sacrifices of fellow Filipinos working abroad.

In an interview granted to media after the event, President Aquino expressed his delight in welcoming the OFWs back to the Philippines. He said the experience drove him more to create more job opportunities in the country so they may stay close to their families instead of going abroad in search for greener pastures.

The President's Day: December 23, 2011

President Benigno S. Aquino III, this morning, attended meetings with his advisers.

This afternoon, he granted ANC's Strictly Politics, GMA7, and reporter Grace Lee an interview at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 24, 2011

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III participated in a gift-giving activity at the Joyce Center, Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati City.

Among the items distributed were food packages and ice cream for the children.

With President Aquino were his sisters Ballsy Aquino-Cruz, Viel Aquino-Dee, Pinky Aquino-Abellada, and Kris Aquino.

The President's Day: December 25, 2011

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYByMefPE_E&[/youtube]

The President's Day: December 26, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: December 27, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 28, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 29, 2011

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: December 30, 2011

oday, we commemorate the 115th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jose Rizal.

President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Rizal Monument in Manila.

President Aquino, during the event, led the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies. He also presided over the unveiling of the Rizal Fountain Marker, at the Noli Me Tangere Garden.

The Rizal Fountain, given to the Philippines by the German government on December 30, 1964, was Germany's gift to the Filipino people.

The President was accorded full military honors upon his arrival, and departure honors on his leave.

The President's Day: January 1, 2012

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAcPmBpTZRw&>[/youtube]

The President's Day: January 2, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 3, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today convened the Cabinet cluster on good governance and anticorruption. The meeting was held at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace, and tackled the Aquino administration's plans of fostering transparency and accountability in governance from 2012 to 2016. In attendance were Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr., Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, and Undersecretary of Communications Manuel L. Quezon III .

In a press briefing held afterward, Undersecretary Quezon disclosed that they discussed the status of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill. President Aquino approved programs on the disclosure standards for local government units and plans to improve the Department of Justice's resolution rate.

The President spent the rest of the day presiding over more meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today presided over a meeting concerning energy with Secretary of Energy Rene Almendras and Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad.

Following the meeting, the President met with the officials of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, Secretary Ramon Carandang and Undersecretary Manuel L. Quezon III, together with Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Secretaries Florencio Abad and Rene Almendras regarding the executive branch's inputs for the proposed Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill.

Earlier last year, the President tasked Undersecretary Quezon to head a study group that would look into the crafting of an FOI Bill. This morning, details of the bill were discussed.

In a press briefing conducted after the meeting, Usec. Quezon disclosed that the President has given the signal to "push forward" with the bill.

President Aquino, according to Undersecretary Quezon, instructed the removal of the proposed Information Commission from the proposed amendments of the bill to avoid another layer of bureaucracy.

The FOI Bill is an element of the administration's efforts to foster transparency and accountability in government and its officials.

The meeting on the FOI bill lasted about two hours.

The rest of President Aquino's day was spent in private meetings.

The President's Day: January 5, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III this morning presided over a series of meetings with his advisers.

This afternoon, the President convened a NEDA and ECON Cluster meeting at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace.

In attendance were Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, National Economic Development Authority Director-General Cayetano Paderanga, Jr., Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, Presidential Management Staff Chief Julia Andrea Abad, Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr., Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez, Jr., and Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson. [*Ref.*]

Thereafter, President Aquino attended more private meetings.

The President's Day: January 6, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to the Tandang Sora Shrine in Quezon City to lead the bicentennial birth celebrations of Melchora Aquino.

The President witnessed the arrival of the remains of Melchora Aquino. Her remains were brought to the event through a motorcade ushered by members of the Philippine armed forces.

He delivered a speech honoring the late heroine, saying that she, at 84 years old, had a choice to avoid the war against the Spanish people: "Subalit sa halip na matakot sa banta ng mga Kastila, tila higit na nagingas ang paghahangad ni Tandang Sora na tulungan ang kaniyang mga kababayan."

President Aquino added: "Ito rin mismo ang hamon ni Tandang Sora sa atin ngayon: ano ang maiaambag mo para sa kapakanan ng mga susunod na mga Pilipino?"

He enjoined the Filipino people to follow the steps of Tandang Sora, stressing that the contributions of each Filipino, no matter how small, would add to the endeavors of creating a better country.

Following the bicentennial celebrations, President Aquino presided over meetings and attended engagements.

The President's Day: January 7, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 8, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III cancelled his trip to Davao del Norte and met with his security officials led by Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin.

The President called for a press briefing in Malacañan Palace to warn the public of a possible terrorist threat on the feast of the Black Nazarene.

In his statement, President Aquino assured the public that the government will ensure their safety to “the fullest extent of its capabilities.”

“I call on our fellow citizens to exercise the maximum vigilance and discipline leading up to, and during, the procession. Report any and all suspicious behavior directly to the authorities, or by calling 117,” he said.

With the President during the briefing were Secretary Gazmin, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of the Interior of Local Government Jesse Robredo, Secretary of Justice Leila De Lima, Philippine National Police Chief Nicanor Bartolome, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Jessie D. Dellosa, and National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia.

Furthermore, during the day, President Aquino made a surprise inspection at Quiapo Church.

The President's Day: January 9, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had two engagements at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace this morning.

The President first received Claudia Cecile as she presented her credentials, marking the beginning of her tour of duty as Ambassador of Jamaica to the Philippines.

Following Ambassador Cecile's presentation of credentials, President Aquino received the officials of the Kuwait Gulf Link (KGL) Group of Companies led by its Chairman Saeed Dashti in a courtesy call.

KGL is an integrated supply chain management service provider in the Middle East. Their services include transportation, logistics, port management, shipping, and freight forwarding.

During the call, the KGL officials disclosed their plan to invest \$500 million in the Philippines.

Thereafter, the President spent his afternoon presiding over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: January 10, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City to lead the Philippine Air Force (PAF) change of command ceremonies.

Lieutenant General Oscar H. Rabena will be resigning as the Commanding General of the Air Force. He will be replaced by Major General Lauro Catalino Dela Cruz.

Upon arrival, President Aquino was accorded full military honors and was ushered to the Grandstand, where the ceremonies would take place.

During the program, the President presided over the presentation of award to Gen. Rabena. He, together with Mrs. Jocelyn Rabena, presented the Presidential Legion of Honor (PLOH) to Gen. Rabena.

Following the presentation of award, President Aquino led the change of command ceremony with him passing the Air Force Command Saber to incoming Gen. Dela Cruz to signify the start of his tenure as Commanding General.

Furthermore, the President delivered a speech lauding the Air Force of its commitment in servicing the country even during times of calamities.

He thanked Gen. Rabena for his 38 years in service and commended him for the reforms instigated during his tenure.

The President also expressed his confidence in incoming Gen. Dela Cruz: “Tiwala akong sa bagong pinuno ng Philippine Air Force na si Heneral Lauro Catalino Dela Cruz, lalo pang titibay ang dedikasyon ng inyong hanay sa pagsisilbi nang tapat sa sambayanan at patuloy na isasapuso ng mga sundalong Pilipino ang makatwirang paninindigan.”

President Aquino also thanked the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in keeping yesterday's Feast of the Nazarene safe.

Among the officials present during the ceremonies include Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin, AFP Chief of Staff Jessie Dellosa, PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome, and Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Ramon Liwag.

After the event, the President presided over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: January 11, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the Philippines Cuthbert Zhakata at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Ambassador Zhakata presented his credentials to President Aquino, marking the beginning of his tour of duty.

After, the President presided over more meetings with his advisers. He then headed to the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City to attend the inauguration of the EXL Service Philippines site II.

EXL Service Philippines is a provider of Transformation and Outsourcing services to a myriad of companies worldwide. Industries that EXL caters to include insurance, banking, financial services, utilities, transportation, and travel. EXL is expanding their business in the Philippines by around 70 percent in following years.

In ceremonies held at the SM E-Com 2 Center, President Aquino delivered a speech thanking EXL Service Philippines for their confidence in investing in the country.

“This inauguration promises a boost to the economy, particularly in terms of more jobs for our countrymen, and the psychic value of allowing us to be more optimistic about the year to come,” he said

“This is a very good start for 2012, and for that: again, please accept my gratitude,” he added.

President Aquino gave his assurance that the government is working hard for businesses to prosper and to continue to provide jobs for Filipinos.

“We will strive to become even better: to have even more streamlined processes, to have an even more skilled workforce, to create an even more viable economic space, so that we may remain leaders in the industry for the foreseeable future,” he said.

The President's Day: January 12, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Manila Hotel this morning to attend the opening ceremony of the 1st Philippine International Bioenergy Conference.

The forum was conducted to promote bioenergy as means to address the growing demand of consumers amid the depleting fuel sources. It is expected to boost the industry and convene key players to discuss investment opportunities in the country.

During the program, the President unveiled the National Biofuels Board One-Stop Shop (NBB-OSS) to signal the opening of the conference.

Afterward, President Aquino delivered a speech expressing his optimism on the energy sector.

“We have indeed made some progress in 2011, but looking at all of you gathered here today, I am convinced that, together, we can build on the successes of the past year, towards an even more impressive performance for the energy sector in 2012,” he said.

“Working together, we can make the year brighter for many Filipinos, and for many people around the world. With your help, we can have more houses capable of switching on lights to welcome each New Year,” the President added.

Government officials present during the event include Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala and Secretary of Energy Rene Almendras.

Following the conference, President Aquino presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President then went to the Palace's Heroes Hall to lead the 2011 The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) awards ceremony.

TOFIL was organized by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Senate Philippines to recognize individuals whose works have made contributions to society.

During the event, President Aquino presented the TOFIL awards to the following:

- Mr. Jesus Estanislao (Governance)
- Mr. Ramon Nery (Public Service)
- Mr. Jose Pardo (Business)
- Ms. Sylvia Dumo-Pendon (Entrepreneurship)
- Ms. Emerlinda Ramos-Roman (Education)
- In his speech, President Aquino lauded the awardees, saying they are the individuals who do not get contented by just doing enough.
- “Patuloy nilang hinahamon ang kanilang kakayahan, at ito ang katangiang bumukod sa kanila sa karamihan,” said the President.
- The gathering, according to President Aquino, was a symbol that the Filipino could do more under any circumstance.
- “Ito po ang dahilan kung bakit hindi tayo napapagod sa paulit-ulit na panawagan natin sa ating mga kababayan, at sa pagdidiin sa ating mga adhikain para sa bayan,” he said.
- After the awards ceremony, the President presided over more meetings.

The President's Day: January 13, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III continued the traditional Palace reception, Vin d'honneur, to mark the New Year.

In ceremonies held at the Malacañan Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall, the President offered a toast for the welfare of the Philippines.

"This year, we will strengthen the programs that work for our countrymen, such as those in education, health, housing, and others like our Conditional Cash Transfer Program," he said.

"We will not relent in our quest to hold accountable those who seek to perpetuate the culture of impunity in our country," President Aquino added.

Furthermore, the President said upgrading military capabilities and achieving peace will be pursued; and economic growth would be continued to be boosted, as well.

After the Vin d'honneur, President Aquino presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 14, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 15, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 16, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to Brgy. Sta. Rosa in Concepcion, Tarlac to attend the inauguration of the D'Luxe Bags Philippines Inc.

D'Luxe Bags is part of the Luen Thai International Group, an apparel manufacturing and supply chain service provider that include brands such as Adidas, Coach, Dillard's, Esprit, Fast Retailing, Limited Brands, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Targus.

During the event, the President led the unveiling of the company's marker, and toured the company's new facilities.

He delivered a message lauding the company for its continued expansion in the country, providing more jobs for the Filipino people.

President Aquino spoke of the importance of providing jobs and livelihood to the Filipino. He said the government is working to achieve this goal and "ease the suffering of the people."

"There are people who are helping us achieve the production of more and more opportunities for our people," said the President.

"It really is imperative on us to ensure that when they leave at the end of the day, or before they sleep, that they really made the right decision in providing us these opportunities," he added.

After the inauguration ceremonies, President Aquino proceeded back to Manila and presided over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: January 17, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to Malacañan Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall to lead the recognition ceremony for government organizations with ISO 9001 Certifications in 2010-2011.

The event is in line with Executive Order No. 605, s. 2007 directing government offices to adopt the ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS).

During the event, the President presented plaques of recognition to their respective recipients and delivered a speech afterward.

In his speech, the President highlighted the importance of public service: "Walang silbi ang mga datos pang-ekonomiya na maganda lamang tingnan sa papel subalit wala namang naidudulot na ginhawa sa mga kababayan nating nasa laylayan ng lipunan."

"Alam ko pong tayong mga nagtitipon sa araw na ito ay nagkakaisa sa adhikaing ito, dahil hindi natin ugaling linlangin ang taumbayan," President Aquino added.

The President extended his gratitude to the agencies, which garnered the recognition saying it was proof of the dedication and professionalism exhibited by the agencies.

"Ipinapabatid natin sa lahat ng kawani ng gobyerno na talaga namang 'Di na puwede ang puwede na', at 'di na uubra ang ugaling 'bahala na'," said President Aquino.

Following the event, attended meetings with his advisers.

This evening, he received a courtesy call from U.S. Senators John McCain, Joe Lieberman, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Kelly Ayotte. The President received the U.S. Senators at Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 18, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today received a courtesy call from former Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo at Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

During the occasion, the President conferred on Minister Yeo the Order of Sikatuna.

The Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic value conferred upon an individual with valuable contributions in strengthening relations between their respective country and the Philippines. It is commonly conferred upon diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states. The Order is conferred upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the home office and in Foreign Service, as well. [*Ref*]

After the courtesy call, President Aquino spent the rest of his day presiding over private meetings.

The President's Day: January 19, 2012

Today marked the first visit of Prime Minister of Thailand Yingluck Shinawatra to the Philippines since she assumed her post in August 2011.

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed PM Shinawatra at the Malacañan Palace grounds. She was accorded arrival honors upon her entrance.

The President, accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, escorted her to the Palace's Ramos Room for a courtesy call, during which PM Shinawatra presented President Aquino with a gift.

Afterward, the President and the Thai prime minister were joined by their respective officials for a meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room. They then proceeded to the President's Hall for a joint press conference.

"The Prime Minister and I are pleased at the excellent economic relations of our countries," President Aquino said. "Thailand is one of the Philippines' largest trading partners."

"Outside of our robust economic engagement, the Prime Minister and I agreed to further expand our functional cooperation in key areas such as education, combating drug trafficking, and disaster risk reduction and management," President Aquino added. "In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Thailand for its assistance to our country in the wake of the massive flooding, destruction and loss of lives wrought by typhoon Sendong."

After the press conference, the President hosted a luncheon in honor of the Prime Minister at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

The President spent the rest of his day in meetings.

The President's Day: January 20, 2012

Today, the Malampaya consortium, which operates the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project, the largest industrial endeavor in the country, remitted a check worth \$1.134 billion to the national government during ceremonies held at Malacañan Palace.

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over the handing of a symbolic check at Malacañan Palace's Music Room.

The Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project is an industrial endeavor that draws natural gas beneath Philippine waters and provides around 42 percent of Luzon's energy requirements. Its member-companies include Shell Philippines Exploration BV, Chevron Malampaya LLC, and Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation.

After the handing-over ceremonies, the President proceeded to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall to lead the switch-on ceremonies for the HEART and SOUL, and Household Electrification programs, which prioritize the electrification of off-grid households through the use of sustainable and renewable energy sources. They aim to provide the Filipino people with more opportunities to improve their quality of life.

President Aquino, in his speech, stressed that the goal of his administration is to foster national development *and* make its benefits experienced by the people; "and access to electricity is one of those benefits."

"We want ninety percent of all unenergized households to have access to electricity by 2017," said the President.

He said the Department of Energy, through projects and partnerships with organizations like Team Energy, is making this goal a reality.

"At the bottom line is principle and honor: No one can fool the people," said President Aquino. "Filipinos should be confident that when we say we have brought light to peoples' homes, it is truly the case; that when we say we are working with partners, we actually have people like those in the DOE and Team Energy on the ground, making a tangible impact on peoples' lives."

This afternoon at the Palace's Music Room, the President received Nancy Harrington, president of Books for the Barrios (BftB), a non-profit, public-benefit corporation that collects school textbooks, educational learning aids, and devices from schools and publishers in the U.S., and delivers them to remote public schools throughout the Philippines.

President Aquino received BftB's 14,000,000th book, a large-format edition titled *How Your Body Works*.

Afterward, the President proceeded to the Rizal Ceremonial Hall to lead the Philippine Quality Awards (PQA) conferment ceremonies.

The PQA, established through Executive Order No. 448 in 1997, is the government's endeavor to push private and public organization to higher standards of performance. Through this, the country may achieve economic growth and level organizational competitiveness with global standards.

During the occasion, President Aquino presented honors to the following:

I. PQA Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management:

Automotive Airconditioning Technology Phils. Inc.

NYK-TDG EBusiness Corporation

II. PQA Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management:

Department of Science and Technology-Region IX

Metals Industry Research and Development Center, DOST

The President also delivered a speech commending the awardees: “I am particularly pleased to see recipients from the government sector.”

“I hope to see more of us—from the national line agencies, local government units, and government-owned and controlled corporations—become part of the roster of PQA awardees,” he said.

“Talaga naman pong masasabi na nating nagbago na ang sitwasyon sa pamahalaan: kung dati, ang tingin sa gobyerno ay pabigat, ngayon po ay kabalikat,” President Aquino added. He expressed his hope that the pursuit for excellence in organizations spread to foster competitiveness among Filipinos.

This evening, President Aquino attended the Liberal Party of the Philippines’ 66th anniversary celebration. The event was held at Cubao, Quezon City.

The President's Day: January 21, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 22, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 23, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 24, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga today to lead the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Philippine Academy for Aviation Training Inc., a training center for pilots worldwide established by Cebu Pacific Air and CAE. In his speech, President Aquino expressed his delight in companies having confidence in the Filipino people's abilities and potentials.

He thanked the companies responsible for the establishment of the Philippine Academy for Aviation Training Inc.

"You can imagine just how important your industry is to us in achieving the change we promised," said the President.

"Rest assured that our administration will be doing what we can to make certain that companies—from both here and abroad—will continue to find good reason to invest here," he added.

After the event, President Aquino headed back to Manila to preside over the change of command ceremonies of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Rear Admiral Edmund Tan would be replacing Admiral Ramon Liwag as the new PCG commandant.

In ceremonies held at the PCG Headquarters, the President was accorded full military honors upon his arrival.

He also conferred the Presidential Legion of Honor (PLOH) to outgoing PCG Commandant Admiral Liwag. And led the handing over of command symbol to Admiral Tan.

In his speech, President Aquino commended Admiral Liwag for his endeavors in improving the PCG.

"Magmula nang humalili ka bilang kapitan ng Coast Guard, wala kang sinayang na panahon para masigurong ang organisasyong ito ay tumatahak lamang sa daang matuwid," he said.

"[T]iyak kong ang pundasyon ng dangal, prinsipyo, at paninindigan na itinindig mo bilang kapitan ng Tanod Baybayin sa loob ng siyam na buwan, ay mabubuhay, lalawak, at magagamit ng Coast Guard sa mas mahaba pang panahon," the President added.

To Admiral Tan, President Aquino expressed his confidence: "Buo ang aking kumpiyansa sa kakayahan, abilidad, at dedikasyon sa serbisyo ni Admiral Tan, at tiwala akong maitatawid niya ang Coast Guard sa isang maunlad at modernong daungan."

"Naitalaga ka sa isang napakahalagang katungkulan dahil sa tiwalang kaya mong paglingkuran nang buong katapatan at dedikasyon ang sambayanang Pilipino," he said.

The President's Day: January 25, 2012

oday, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Mindanao to engage in shelter builds and conduct inspections in the areas affected by tropical storm Sendong.

At around 8:30 a.m., the President took off from Villamor Airbase in Pasay City to Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

Upon arrival President Aquino proceeded to the Bayanihan Village for a short program.

The President delivered a speech expressing his delight with the country's response to the disaster that transpired in the area.

"Sa likod nga po ng pagkawasak, lumitaw ang pagkakaisa; sa kabila ng pagkasadlak, nanaig ang pakikipag-kapwa," he said.

President Aquino then thanked the entities responsible for the ongoing rehabilitation effort and gave his assurance of the government's integrity in solving national dilemmas.

He also called on the public to heed government warnings on predicted mishaps.

"Huwag na po nating hintayin na muling sampolan tayo ni Inang Kalikasan bago tayo kumilos; sadyang hindi po natin mapipigilan ang pabigla-biglang sungit ng panahon," said the President.

"Sumubaybay lang po tayo sa mga ulat-panahon at sumunod sa mga direktiba ng kinauukulan," he added.

After the program, President Aquino engaged in a shelter-building activity then proceeded to Cagayan de Oro via aircraft.

Upon arrival in Cagayan de Oro, the President headed to Barangay Canito-An where a brief program was also prepared.

President Aquino addressed the crowd acknowledging the 13 governors present on site to offer aid to the Sendong victims.

"Bawat isa sa kanila ho may kanya-kanyang problema sa kanilang probinsya pero hindi ho naging balakid iyan para makipagdamayan, makipagbayanihan sa inyo pong mga Cagayanon," he said.

The President also shared words of encouragement and assured the people of continued government support: "Titiyakin nating sa relokasyong ito, hindi mapapatid ang suporta ng inyong pamahalaan sa pagkakaloob ng mga kabuhayan at paghubog sa inyong magandang kinabukasan."

After the program, President Aquino joined in a house building activity in the location.

Following the activities in Barangay Canito-An, the President proceeded to Barangay Lumbia to inspect the relocation site donated by Xavier University.

During his inspection, President Aquino mingled with the disaster victims and assured them of backing from the government.

Afterward, President Aquino flew back to Manila to visit the late President Corazon C. Aquino's tomb in the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City to commemorate her birth anniversary.

The President's Day: January 26, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed Australian ambassador to the Philippines Bill Tweddell and Chinese ambassador to the Philippines Ma Keqing at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Ambassadors Tweddell and Keqing presented their credentials to mark their tour of duty in the country.

After receiving the ambassadors, the President presided over meetings with his advisers.

This afternoon, President Aquino proceeded to the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City for the first anniversary forum of Arangkada Philippines, a conference organized by the Joint Foreign Chamber of the Philippines (JFCP).

During the event, the President delivered a speech about the present state of the global economy and how the Philippines fared amid the crisis.

“Capital has been looking eastward; investments have already begun to gravitate towards emerging markets, and the Philippines is among those countries who are increasingly being mentioned in this conversation,” he said.

President Aquino then talked about the government's actions in safeguarding its economy through programs in tourism and agriculture, and the speedy releasing of funds to boost infrastructure projects.

“The driving principle behind my government has always been equitable progress and inclusive growth, and we believe that the success of these three sectors—tourism, infrastructure, and agriculture—redound to the benefit of the common Filipino people,” he said.

After the event, the President headed back to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

The President's Day: January 27, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III led the launching of the Philippine Business Registry System (PBRs) today at the Atrium Building in Makati City.

The PBRs is a web-based system serving as a one-stop registration mechanism for entrepreneurs who operate businesses in the country.

During the occasion, the President witnessed the actual using of the system. He also presented certificates of appreciation to participating agencies.

After the event, the President attended meetings with his advisers.

Afterward, President Aquino headed the New Bilibid Prison in Muninlupa City to lead the launching of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) 2012 Roadmap.

In his speech, the President said the image of hopelessness in prison as depicted in movies is changing. "Sa paglulunsad natin ng Bureau of Corrections Roadmap, itutulak natin ang ating sistemang koreksyonal tungo sa tuwid na daan, kung saan ang tanging layunin ng Bilibid at ng lahat ng bilangguan sa Pilipinas, ay ang tiyakin ang makabuluhang rehabilitasyon at pagbabagong buhay ng mga bilango, upang sila ay maging handa sa kanilang pagbabalik bilang bahagi ng kalakhang lipunan," he said.

President Aquino also acknowledged the people responsible for the endeavor.

He talked about the importance of establishing an excellent correctional facility because, according to the President, "ang hustisya ay hindi nagtatapos sa parusa."

President Aquino, furthermore, toured the facilities of the reservation.

The President's Day: January 28, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 29, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: January 31, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today spent his day in meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 4, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 5, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 6, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to the Malacañan Palace's Heroes Hall to lead the GOCC [Government-owned and -controlled corporation] Governance Day and ceremonial turnover of GOCC dividend checks to the national government.

During the program, the President received the checks from the respective GOCCs and delivered a message afterward.

In his message, President Aquino stressed the administration's principle of good governance. He said that since the Aquino administration took place, GOCCs has undergone reforms and it has benefited the people largely.

"Ngayong taon nagkaloob po ang dalawampu't isang GOCC ng mahigit labingsiyam na bilyong pisong dibidendo sa ating gobyerno," said the President.

President Aquino said the amount would send children back to school, upgrade healthcare, and aid programs of development.

"Malinaw po ang nangyari: kung hindi natin inayos ang pamamalakad sa GOCCs, hindi po natin makakamit ang halagang ito na malaki ang maitutulong upang pondohan ang ating mga serbisyong panlipunan," he said.

"Pinatutunayan po natin ngayon na kaya nating ituwid ang baluktot na sistema," the President added.

Following the occasion, President Aquino proceeded to the Port of Manila for the 110th anniversary celebration of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

During ceremonies held at the Port of Manila's Social Hall, the President delivered a speech highlighting the importance of integrity in the service. He reiterated the administration's crusade of abolishing corruption and doing honest work so more social projects may be funded and experienced by the people.

"Malinaw po sa atin ang mga balakid sa ating pag-unlad, kung kaya't naging malinaw din ang plano natin sa pag-usad: sa liwanag ng tapat at mabubuting pamamahala, patitibayin natin ang mga pampublikong institusyon at itutuwid ang sistema; ibinabalik natin ang malinaw na pag-unawa ng lipunan sa kung ano ang mali at tama," he said.

After the event, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers.

Moreover, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake hit the Visayas region today. According to Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, the President has been checking in on the situation and is receiving updates from the concerned government agencies regarding the situation throughout the day.

The President's Day: February 7, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III spent the morning in meetings with his advisers.

In the afternoon, the President received a courtesy call from Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

The IMO is the United Nations' arm in ensuring the security of the shipping industry as well as the environmental welfare of the oceans.

With President Aquino during the courtesy call were Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, and Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz.

After the meeting with Secretary-General Sekimizu, the President received Ambassador of France to the Philippines Thierry Borja de Mozota in the Music Room. The Ambassador paid the President a farewell call. President Aquino conferred upon him the Order of Sikatuna.

The Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic value conferred upon an individual with valuable contributions in strengthening relations between their respective country and the Philippines. It is commonly conferred upon diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states. The Order is conferred upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the home office and in Foreign Service, as well.

The President's Day: February 8, 2012

Today is the 52nd birthday of President Benigno S. Aquino III.

This morning, together with his cabinet officials, he departed from Villamor Airbase in Pasay City for Negros Oriental, which was one of the provinces most affected by the magnitude 6.9 earthquake which struck the Visayas on February 6, 2012.

There, President Aquino conducted aerial and land inspections of Guihulngan City and the municipality of La Libertad.

He was later briefed about the situation in the region at the arrival area of the Dumaguete Airport. During the briefing, the President turned over P5.7 million to the Governor of Negros Oriental, Roel Degamo.

President Aquino then received reports of the extent of the damage in the region: 13 bridges (three are beyond repair), 23 electric poles, and six transformers were damaged. Furthermore, 52 injuries and 22 deaths were recorded as of today.

The President was told that enough funds were available for repairing infrastructure and reenergizing the power distribution lines by Friday.

He was also informed that food, water, and medical supplies were being mobilized and that the Department of Agriculture was coming up with a mechanism to control the prices of commodities.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, as well, notified President Aquino that it has intensified security through the local public safety battalion.

The President, furthermore, took note of the connectivity plans for the isolated areas and said he will be keeping track of the given timelines.

During the trip he was accompanied by Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Soliman; Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo; Secretary of Science and Technology Mario Montejo; Secretary of Health Enrique Ona; Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson; Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II; Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala; Secretary of Energy Jose Rene Almendras; Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin; Undersecretary of Communications Manuel L. Quezon III; and Undersecretary of Defense Benito Ramos.

The President's Day: February 12, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 13, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today, in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace, received Ambassador of India to the Philippines Yogendra Kumar. Ambassador Kumar paid the President a farewell call as his tour of duty in the country has ended.

Afterward, President Aquino welcomed Ambassador of Greece to the Philippines Constantina Koliou and Ambassador of New Zealand to the Philippines Reuben Anthony Joannes Levermore in the Music Room. Both ambassadors presented their credentials to the President to signify their start of duty in the Philippines.

This afternoon, President Aquino attended meetings and proceeded to Camp Crame in Quezon City to preside over the Philippine National Police command conference.

The President's Day: February 14, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 15, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a series of meetings in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, he attended the contract signing of Globe Telecom's Mobile Network Modernization Program at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The signing was among Globe Telecom, Huawei Technologies Philippines, Inc., and Globe and Alcatel-Lucent Philippines, Inc., to improve Globe's network quality and service. Globe will be investing \$700 million in five years to support the program.

During the event, the President witnessed the signing and led the ceremonial opening of the program.

He also delivered a speech thanking Globe Telecom for continuing to expand its business in the country, "for this placing a vet on our country's future that enables us to address the problems really in a much quicker pace to the ultimate benefit of our people."

He also expressed his delight in the established partnership. "I am pleased that one of the most respected companies in the Philippines has chosen to work with strong, reliable, and world-renowned partners, both Huawei Technologies and Alcatel-Lucent."

"This is truly another reflection of their confidence in the Philippines," he added.

The project, according to President Aquino, would link entities resulting to better disaster warnings and responses, and better communication with of business dealings.

"A healthy telecommunications sector leads to a healthy economy—ultimately creating more jobs, and more opportunities for our people to live dignified lives," he said.

The President's Day: February 16, 2012

Today is the anniversary of the Tagumpay ng Bayan Rally, a movement led by the late Corazon Aquino at Luneta. The rally called for civil disobedience against the Marcos administration, boycotting any products from the firms owned by Marcos cronies.

President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the La Consolacion College in Manila City to attend an event in commemoration of the Tagumpay ng Bayan.

In ceremonies held at the Mother Consuelo Barcelo Theater, the President delivered a speech about the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

He said the trial was depicted his respect to the system and a way of bringing back confidence in it.

Read the full transcript of the President's speech [here](#).

After his speech, President Aquino granted his audience, mostly composed of students from various universities in the country, an open forum.

During the forum, the students asked the President about the government's plans and endeavors for education, poverty, the economy, and the environment.

According to President Aquino, the specific government agencies, which specialize in the said concerns, have been working to address the dilemmas. He said they have created partnerships and coordinated with the other government agencies and the private sector to hasten their actions.

The President was also asked about the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Corona.

President Aquino said if the chief justice would be acquitted, it would make it hard for his administration to push for its reform agendas.

He stressed that this was the time for change and that the whole country should rally for this to happen. The President said he is doing everything he can to foster change so that the succeeding generations would not experience the same suffering under the previous regime.

The President's Day: February 17, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace today.

The President also constantly monitored and received updates on the flooding situation in the Bicol region throughout the day.

The President's Day: February 18, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 20, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today swore in newly appointed government officials at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The officials who took their oaths of office are the following:

Office of the President

Manuel N. Mamba, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)

Roberto V. Garcia, administrator

Joven D. Reyes, acting member, Board of Directors

Anne Marie C. Gordon, member, Board of Directors

Governance Commissions on GOCCs

Cesar L. Villanueva, chairman

Ma. Angela E. Ignacio, commissioner

Rainier B. Butalid, commissioner

National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)

Cosette V. Canilao, executive director, Public-Private Partnership Center (PPPC)

Department of Tourism (DOT)

Kaye C. Tinga, acting member, Board of Directors, Tourism Promotions Board

Eugene T. Kaw, assistant secretary

Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)

Catherine Jennifer Francis P. Gonzales, assistant secretary

Edmund C. Tan, commandant and vice Admiral, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

Romeo R. Africa, member, representing the Workers' Sector, Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB), National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC)

Miguel T. Tezon, member, representing the Workers' Sector, RTWPB, NWPC

Francisco R. Floro, member, representing the Employers' Sector, NWPC

Jose P. Tomongha, member, representing the Workers' Sector, RTWPB, NWPC

Eduardo T. Rondain, member, representing the Employers' Sector, NWPC

Rebecca C. Chato, acting undersecretary

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Parisya H. Taradji, undersecretary

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

Emmanuel L. Caparas, acting member, Board of Trustees, MWSS

Benjamin J. Yambao, acting member, Board of Trustees, MWSS

Ma. Cecilia G. Soriano, acting member, Board of Trustees, MWSS

Hermogenes R. Fernando, acting member, Board of Trustees, MWSS

Guillermo Q. Tabios III, acting member, Board of Trustees, MWSS

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Benedict M. Uy, Trade Service Officer IV, Philippine Foreign Trade Service Corps (PFTSC)

Magnolia M. Uy, Trade Service Officer IV, PFTSC

Christine R. Dela Cruz, Trade Service Officer IV, PFTSC

Anne Marie Kristine C. Umali, Trade Service Officer IV, PFTSC

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)

Felix William B. Fuentebella, deputy secretary general

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)

Efren C. Moncupa, member, Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) Peace Negotiating Panel for Talks with CPP/NPA/NDF

Department of Health (DOH)

Irene B. Maramag, member, representing the Private Sector, National Nutrition Council (NNC)

Monina C. Camacho, member, representing the Private Sector, NNC

Jane M.N. Sta. Ana, acting member, Board of Directors, representing the Filipino Overseas Workers' Sector, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH)

Edgardo C. Amistad, member, representing the Private Sector, NNC

Francisco Vicente F. Lopez M.D., acting member, Board of Directors, representing the Self-Employed Sector, PHILHEALTH

Eduardo P. Banzon, acting president and CEO, and acting member, Board of Directors, representing the Employers' Sector, PHILHEALTH

Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, executive director, with the rank of Undersecretary, Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO)

Department of Education (DepEd)

Elena R. Ruiz, assistant secretary

Ma. Lourdes A. Carandang, member, representing the Parents, National Council for Children's Television

Maria Andrea Pasion-Flores, acting executive director, National Book Development Board (NBDB)

Ma. Karina A. Bolasco, member, representing the Private Sector, NBDB

Ani Rosa S. Almario, member, representing the Private Sector, NBDB

Ruel S. De Vera, member, representing the Private Sector, NBDB

Isagani R. Cruz, member, representing the Private Sector, NBDB

Flor Marie Sta. Romana-Cruz, member, representing the Private Sector, NBDB

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Francis H. Jardeleza, solicitor general

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

LTGEN Jessie D. Dellosa, chief of staff, AFP

LTGEN Emmanuel T. Bautista, commanding general, PA

MGEN Cipriano D. Gundao, commander, Air Logistics Command, PAF

RADM Miguel Jose S. Rodriguez, deputy chief of staff for Civil Military Operations, J7, AFP

MGEN Jose Z. Mabanta Jr., commander, 3rd Infantry Division, PA

MGEN Eduardo D. Del Rosario, commander, 2nd Infantry Division, PA

RADM Edgardo T. Tamayo, deputy chief of staff for Logistics, J4, AFP

MGEN Raoul J. Reyes, deputy chief of staff for Personnel, J1, AFP

MGEN Roy O. Deveraturda, deputy chief of staff for Plans, J5, AFP

MGEN Rey C. Ardo, commander, 6th Infantry Division, PA

BGEN Joselito P. Avanceña, commander, AFP Medical Center

BGEN Roberto T. Almadin, chief, Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Council

BGEN Manuel Luis M. Ochotorena, assistant division commander, 6th Infantry Division, PA

BGEN Richard C. Siga-An, chief, AFP Pension and Gratuity Management Center

BGEN Elmer R. Amon, deputy commander, Western Command, AFP

COMMO Elmer C. Carrillo, commander, Naval Construction Brigade, PN

COMMO Alexander S. Lopez, commander, Joint Task Force Malampaya

COMMO Crispin P. Mercado, deputy inspector general, AFP

BGEN Leopoldo B. Santos Jr., commander, Communications, Electronics and Information System Service, AFP

COMMO Abraham F. Celzo, commander, Naval Forces Southern Luzon, PN

BGEN Emerald C. Magnaye, wing commander, 530th Air Base Wing, PAF

BGEN Romeo D. Taguinod, Air Force internal auditor, PAF

BGEN Normando T. Sta Ana Jr., surgeon general, AFP

BGEN Herbert S. Yambing, provost marshal general, AFP

BGEN Ismael V. Tumar, commander, Technical and Administrative Service Brigade (Reserves)

COMMO Marfenio Y. Tan, commander, Naval Affiliated Reserve Force-Eastern Mindanao (SOCOPA) (Reserves)

BGEN Antonio L. Tamayo, commander, 1st AFP Affiliated Medical Center

Philippine National Police (PNP)

PDDG Arturo G. Cacdac Jr.

PDDG Emelito T. Sarmiento

PDIR George Q. Piano

PDIR Rey L. Lañada

PDIR Rolando DR. Añonuevo

PDIR Jaime D. Calungsud Jr.

PDIR Felicisimo V. Khu Jr.

PDIR Rommel DF. Heredia

PDIR Victorino S. Panganiban Jr.

PDIR Franklin S. Alfabeto

PDIR Catalino S. Cuy

PDIR Samuel D. Pagdilao Jr.

PDIR Alan M. Purisima

PDIR Ager P. Ontog Jr.

PDIR Roque G. Ramirez

PDIR Samuel B. Diciano

PCSUPT Alex Paul I. Monteagudo

PCSUPT Elpidio Z. De Asis Jr.

PCSUPT Tomas G. Rentoy III

PCSUPT Benito C. Estipona

PCSUPT Rodrigo P. De Gracia

PCSUPT Getulio P. Napeñas

PCSUPT Angelito N. Pacia

PCSUPT Arnulfo DR. Perez

PCSUPT Edgardo T. Ladao

PCSUPT Henry P. Losaños

PCSUPT Agrimero A. Cruz Jr.

PCSUPT Danilo S. Constantino

PCSUPT Francisco R. Cristobal Jr.

PCSUPT Jose Erwin T. Villacorte

PCSUPT Gil J. Histosis

PCSUPT Cristino C. Campanilla

PCSUPT Melito M. Mabilin

PCSUPT Noel O. Delos Reyes

PCSUPT Ricardo C. Marquez

PCSUPT Mark Edison B. Belarma

PCSUPT Willie M. Tolentino

PCSUPT Alexander L. Roldan

PCSUPT Benjamin B. Magalong

PCSUPT Clarence V. Guinto

PCSUPT Lorlie N. Arroyo

PCSUPT Carmelo E. Valmoria

PCSUPT Ernesto A. Tesoro Jr.

PCSUPT Catalino B. Rodriguez Jr.

PCSUPT Roman A. Felix

PCSUPT Valiant G. De Guzman

PCSUPT Elmer R. Soria

PCSUPT Jose Jorge E. Corpuz

PCSUPT Victor P. Deona

PCSUPT Mario B. Yanga

PCSUPT Francisco A. Uyami Jr.

PCSUPT Samuel M. Yordan

PCSUPT Jesus Gordon P. Descanzo

PCSUPT Vicente A. Loot

PCSUPT Lester O. Camba

PCSUPT Noel Lazarus C. Vargas

PCSUPT Manuel P. Piñera

PCSUPT Raul Basilio D. Boac

PCSUPT Edgar L. Layon

PCSUPT Ramon G. Ancheta

PCSUPT Juanito B. Vaño Jr.

PCSUPT Danilo J. Alcoriza

PCSUPT Isagani F. Genabe Jr.

PCSUPT Mario O. Dela Vega

PCSUPT Abner O. Dimabuyu

PCSUPT Jesus T. Gatchalian

PCSUPT Bernado C. Florece Jr.

PCSUPT Alejandro F. Gutierrez

PCSUPT Paterno P. Hernandez

PCSUPT Anselmo Simeon P. Pinili

PCSUPT Edgardo C. Ingking

P/SSUPT Marlon Valdez Madrid

P/SSUPT Angelito Abellera Casimiro

P/SSUPT Mario Manzano Dapilloza

P/SSUPT Nicolas Marmol Gregorio

P/SSUPT Felipe Rivera Natividad

P/SSUPT Joey Bautista Runes

P/SSUPT Robert Taneo Page

P/SSUPT Alexander Jadoc Sampaga

P/SSUPT Jose Bucsit Macanas

P/SSUPT Bartolome Ragudos Bustamante

P/SSUPT Manuel Malabanan Lukban Jr.

P/SSUPT Petronelli Mecerido Baldebrin

P/SSUPT Arnel Bondiles Escobal

P/SSUPT Geronimo Espano Aguilar Jr.

P/SSUPT Roque Portera Alcantara

P/SSUPT Aurelio Reyes Ducay Jr

P/SSUPT Florence Picardal Natnat

After he administered the oaths of the new public officials, the President proceeded to preside over meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: February 21, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered his **opening remarks** in the Cabinet Workshop on Anti-Corruption Strategies, a seminar that would aid in enhancing the government's anti-corruption roadmap. The workshop would be facilitated by Robert Klitgaard, a Claremont Graduate University professor, at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace.

In his message, the President stressed his administration's goal of abolishing corruption in government. He said this cause is the reason for "changing the status quo." He said that the fight against corruption was the process of giving the "country back to its people."

President Aquino then highlighted the importance of the workshop saying that it would aid in further refining the administration's plan against corruption.

"We have to do this because while those who want to preserve the old status quo may be down, they are certainly not out; and they will not go away quietly," he said.

"Let us take this opportunity to learn from each other and ultimately fulfill the dream we share with our people: that of a Philippines free from the grip of corruption—free to prosper under the broad light of day," the President added.

Among those present during the workshop include Secretaries of Communications Ramon Carandang and Herminio Coloma, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Soliman, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, Secretary of Health Enrique Ona, Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson, Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez Jr., and Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo. [Ref.]

After addressing the workshop, President Aquino presided over more meetings in the Palace. He also issued **Executive Order No. 67** fast-tracking the establishment of an integrated transport system to improve mass transportation systems and spur economic growth.

The President's Day: February 22, 2012

This morning, at the Malacañan Palace's Music Room, President Benigno S. Aquino III was paid a courtesy call by the production staff and actors of the film, *Bourne Legacy*. The actors and crew of the film extended their gratitude to the President for the government's aid in the movie's making.

Lead actor Jeremy Renner headed the delegation. He wore a Barong Tagalog paired with cargo pants during the call.

With President Aquino were Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez Jr., Communications Secretaries Ramon Carandang and Herminio Coloma, and MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino.

At the end of the call, the President gifted each guest with two books (*The Sisters* and *The Inaugural: The Inside Story of the Aquino Presidency*) and a box of chocolate bearing the Presidential seal.

In return, President Aquino was given DVD copies of the Bourne film series and Renner's movies—*The Town* and *Hurt Locker*.

The Bourne Legacy is the fourth installment of the Bourne series created by author Robert Ludlum, centered on a military experiment conducted on a CIA agent that backfired. Other movie stars included in the film are Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.

Following the courtesy call, the President led the induction of newly elected officers and members of the Board of Trustees of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and members of the KBP Standards Authority at the Palace's President's Hall.

After the induction, President Aquino proceeded to preside over private meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: February 23, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III, today, worked on state papers and presided over meetings with advisers in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 24, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Trece Martires City in Cavite to preside over the symbolic turnover of 1,500 housing units to the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel.

The project is part of the 21,800 housing units targeted to be built by the National Housing Authority (NHA) this year.

Upon arrival, the President led the handing over of keys to selected AFP and PNP personnel and proceeded to inspect the model units of the area.

After the inspection, President Aquino was ushered to a program prepared for the event.

During the program, the President delivered a speech assuring the AFP and the PNP of government support.

He highlighted the number of housing units targeted to be built this year for the AFP and PNP and the additional 31,200 units for the second leg of the NHA program.

“Dagdag sa good news, kabilang na sa mga makikinabang dito ang mga kawani ng Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection, at Bureau of Corrections na parepareho ring matagal nang nakalimutan bigyang pansin,” said President Aquino.

“Makakaabot na rin po ito, tulad ng ating pinangako, sa Visayas at Mindanao,” he added.

The modernization efforts, according to the President, are ongoing as new military arms, vehicles, and training were and are continued to be given to the respective agencies.

Furthermore, according to President Aquino, it took 15 years for the previous administrations to release P33 billion for the modernization program.

“Through our efforts, we have delivered 28 billion in roughly about 17 months,” he said.

Following the occasion, the President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace to engage in private meetings.

The President's Day: February 25, 2012

Today is the **26th anniversary of the EDSA Revolution**, the peaceful mass movement that toppled the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

Early this morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to the People Power Monument in Quezon City to lead a flag-raising ceremonies.

Upon his arrival, the President was accorded full military honors. Afterward, he proceeded to participate in the rites of the ceremony, which included the reenactment of the 1986 “Salubungan”— the movement of rebel soldiers under then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile from Camp Aguinaldo to Camp Crame, which is two kilometers away. The soldiers who crossed that stretch of Epiphano de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) were protected by over 300,000 civilians from Marcos-loyalist soldiers.

“This avenue stood witness to what Filipinos are capable of doing for democracy and freedom,” President Aquino said during his **speech**.

He said that although our freedoms have been restored, the fight against poverty and oppression continues. “Today, we have the chance to right the wrongs of the past, and to fill whatever shortcomings are present in our history.”

He called on the Filipinos to join him in threading the righteous path and abolishing the wrongs in the country’s system.

“Let us remember: martial law happened because Filipinos kept their silence for so long, and because they fought back only when they saw the extent of the suffering it has brought to our country,” said President Aquino.

Among the government officials present were former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada; Vice President Jejomar Binay; Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile; and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

After the flag-raising ceremonies in the People Power Monument, President Aquino proceeded to the monuments of Ninoy and Cory Aquino in Luneta for a wreath-laying activity in honor of his parents’ contributions to People Power.

The President delivered a **message** stressing that the importance to build upon the freedom and opportunities that our heroes have fought for.

“Higit sa anumang rebulto at pagdiriwang, mas maisasabuhay natin ang kadakilaan ng lahat ng bayani ng EDSA kung kikilos tayo para pangalagaan ang kanilang pamana: ang atin pong minamahal na demokrasya,” he said.

President Aquino also shared his optimism that the country would attain its goal of a better society if the Filipinos would remain united.

“Ito po marahil ang hamon ni Ninoy at Cory sa atin ngayon: ang araw-araw na isapuso ang diwa ng EDSA People Power Revolution,” he said.

During the program, doves were released while the Ramon Magsaysay Choir performed the song “Bayan ko.”

Later in the day, the President released a **video message** citing some of the accomplishments of the Aquino administration.

The President's Day: February 26, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: February 27, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today attended at the **Water Loss 2012 Conference** at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The Water Loss 2012 Conference is a part of a series of international gatherings that tackles developments in water loss reduction efforts. The Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI) and the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) hosted the event.

In ceremonies held at the hotel's Isla Ballroom, the President delivered an **address** highlighting the importance of managing water resources.

President Aquino shared that he signed an **executive order** in October 2011 establishing an interagency committee led by Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson.

He emphasized the importance of the private sector in creating water system policies.

"The government alone cannot improve the water sector totally. We need engaged stakeholders who are ready and willing to make our water systems in this country more efficient," said the President.

President Aquino said that the government aims to provide 86 percent of Filipinos access to potable water by 2016.

"This is not about patting each other's backs and resting easy with what we have achieved so far; it is about recognizing that more needs to be done, and pulling together to attain higher goals," he said. "May this conference lead to fruitful discourse, new strategies, and tangible realities."

Furthermore, the President toured an installation set up by both hosts during the event.

After noon, the President attended the formal presentation of the **Kindergarten Education Act (Republic Act No. 10157)** at Malacañan Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

During the event, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. presented President Aquino a signed copy of the Republic Act. They were joined by students from the **Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (CENTEX)**.

The President then delivered a **message** expressing his delight in seeing children visiting Malacañan Palace. "Makita lang po natin ang kanilang mga ngiti, talagang napapawi na ang pagod natin sa trabaho," said President Aquino.

"Sa kabilang banda, sila rin ang nagpapaalala sa atin sa sinumpaan nating tungkulin: Ang mabigyan ang kabataang Pilipino ng pagkakataon para sa mas magandang kinabukasan," he said.

According to the President, the enactment of the law is a step in the administration's efforts in improving education in the country. He stressed the importance of having the law. He said the law would lay the foundation of basic education and prepare the students for the demands of higher grade levels.

"Ayon pa nga po sa mga pag-aaral, sa panahong ito pinakamainam na matuto ang bata, dahil sa panahong ito mataas ang kanilang kapasidad na tumanggap ng kaalaman," said President Aquino.

The President then assured the people that the government would continue making reforms to further upgrade the quality of education in the country.

"Naninindigan pa rin po tayo: Edukasyon ang susi sa pangmatagalang kaunlaran ng bansa," he said.

Following the presentation of the Kindergarten Law, President Aquino presided over a meeting. He After the meeting, the President proceeded to the Palace's Music Room where he welcomed President and co-founder of Not For Sale (NFS), Dr. David Batstone and National Director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) Bishop Efraim Tendaro in a courtesy call.

With President Aquino were Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima and Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang.

After the call, the President attended private meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: February 28, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Manila to attend the 4th National Congress of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA).

The COCOPEA is an umbrella organization of educational associations that promotes private schooling in the country. The congress will focus on programs reforming the Philippine education.

In ceremonies held at the Quadricentennial Pavilion, the President delivered a **speech** sharing the administration's goal of providing quality education for all Filipinos. President Aquino shared some of the endeavors the administration is taking to reform the education sector.

According to the President, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, during the start of the Aquino administration, reported that there is a shortage of 66,800 classrooms nationwide. Through the efforts of players in the education sector, the problem of classroom shortage would be eliminated by 2013.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), said the President, is also keeping an eye on college programs to ensure the quality of education in the country.

President Aquino also shared that the **Kindergarten Education Act** was formally presented yesterday, February 27.

The President, furthermore, thanked the participants of the event for supporting the **K+12 Basic Education Program**.

Following the occasion, President Aquino proceeded back to Malacañan Palace where he received Ambassador of Qatar to the Philippines Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli at the Music Room. The ambassador of Qatar presented his credentials marking the start of his tour of duty in the country.

After the presentation of credentials, the President, also in the Music Room, welcomed United Nations World Tourism Organizations (UNWTO) Secretary-General Talen Rifa.

He later received a farewell call from Ambassador of Singapore to the Philippines Ampalavanar Selveraja.

During the call, President Aquino conferred the Order to Sikatuna to Ambassador Selveraja for his contributions in strengthening his country's ties with the Philippines.

Later in the afternoon, the President headed to the Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall for the premiere screening of the National Geographic Channel's documentary, "Inside Malacañang."

President Aquino watched the documentary and delivered a short **message** expressing his delight with the documentary.

"Apart from telling you more about the history of the Palace, it will also give you a look into the lives of the other people who work here—the pilot and maintenance team of the Presidential Airlift Wing, the Presidential Security Group, and others who work very closely with me," the President said about the documentary.

"They help me to do my work as President, and I am happy that there is now a film that immortalizes their hard work and dedication," he added.

President Aquino stressed that the Palace was of the people and that the documentary should symbolize "that the halls of power are not exclusive to elected officials."

President Aquino is the third president of the Republic “who only holds office in, but not be a resident of, Malacañan Palace, following Corazon C. Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos.” [*Ref.*]

Furthermore, the President issued Proclamation No. 346 declaring March 10 as a special non-working holiday in Bukidnon to celebrate the province’s Foundation Day anniversary.

The President's Day: February 29, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oaths of office of newly appointed government officials at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace this morning.

Afterward, the President welcomed Archbishop Emeritus of Cebu Ricardo J. Vidal and Archbishop of Cebu Jose S. Palma in Malacañang.

Cardinal Vidal and Archbishop Palma invited President Aquino to the canonization of Blessed Pedro Calungsod in the Vatican.

Calungsod was a Filipino martyred while doing missionary work in Guam in 1672. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on March 5, 2000. On February 18, the Vatican announced Calungsod's canonization. He would be canonized on October 21 this year.

After the meeting, the President presided over more meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: March 1, 2012

Today is the 26th founding anniversary of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

President Benigno S. Aquino III to Malacañan Park to preside over the event.

Upon arrival, the President was accorded full military honors.

He delivered a speech citing Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin for bringing honor back to the PSG under his leadership during the late President Corason Aquino's administration.

He commended Colonel Dizon and the present PSG for upholding their integrity and being of service for the country.

"Kayo po ang susi sa maayos kong pagtatrabaho upang maitaguyod ang karapat-dapat para sa mga Pilipino," said the President.

"Hindi lang po ako ang pinoprotektahan ninyo kundi pati na ang Tanggapan ng Pangulo, ang institusyong nagsusulong sa nagkakaisang adhikain ng sambayanan," he added.

President Aquino assured the members of the PSG continued government support. "Mulat tayo sa halaga at tindi ng inyo pong mga sakripisyo. Kaya naman hindi natin hahayaan na ang mga tulad ninyong nag-aalay ng buhay at nagmamalasakit sa bayan, ay mag-isang pinapasan ang kanilang mga suliranin sa buhay."

After, the President received Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Haruhiko Kuroda in a meeting at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

In a press briefing presided by Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang at the Palace's New Executive Building, Secretary of Finance Cesar V. Purisima bared that the meeting was about the Philippines hosting the 45th annual gathering of the ADP. According to Secretary Purisima, the event was to bring talk of better governance in relation to "good economics" in the country. He said around 4,000 people would be participating in the event that would take place at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

After the meeting with ADB President Kuroda, President Aquino presided over more meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: March 2, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III this morning headed to Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro via aircraft to lead the switch on ceremonies of the 2.1mw Linao Cawayan Mini-Hydro Power Plant (LCMHPP) lower cascade facility and the 45 sitios under the Sitio Electrification Program.

The LCMHPP is located along the Cawayan River in San Teodoro Oriental Mindoro. It is designed to supply a percentage of the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO) power requirements.

The President touched down at the Jose J. Leido Jr. Memorial National High School football field and was received by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP). They proceeded to ORMECO main office in Barangay Santa Isabel via land transportation.

In ceremonies held at the ORMECO Recreation and Events Center, President Aquino presided over lighting up the scales representing the facility and 45 barangay units.

The President was then ushered to a program where he delivered a message sharing the government's efforts in bringing supplies of electricity even to the remotest of barangay units in the country.

President Aquino shared that the government has surpassed its goal of providing access to electricity to 1,300 sitios. According to the President, his administration was able to supply electricity to 1,500 sitios at lesser costs.

"Ang ginastos lang po nila 814 million para doon sa 1,500 na sitio," said President Aquino.

Through good and honest management of public funds, the government is garnering enough funding to address the dilemma on power supply, the President said.

He commended the Filipinos for rallying and urged them to continue creating a better Philippines.

Furthermore, during the event, the coffee table book, "The ORMECO Odyssey" was launched. President Aquino was presented a copy by Directors Atty. Zosimo Mendoza and CEO Romeo Cuasay.

The President's Day: March 16, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, the President visited the Palace's New Executive Building to inspect its premises. He spoke with the Malacañang Engineering Office head about possible improvements.

This evening, President Aquino went to The Peninsula Manila in Makati City to deliver an address at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Anvil Business Club.

In his speech, the President imparted a lesson that there will always be an influx of challenges in any entity—may it be business or politics. Demands among the players involved would emerge continuously as goals and context change.

“But this tension, in fact, is unnecessary,” President Aquino said. “The central issue today is how both demands can be met in a reasonable way.”

He stressed that the country's vision is growth not merely for the few with ranks but “for everyone who has a stake in our enterprise.”

He said the Philippines is on track in becoming one of the more successful economies and that the challenge is to further accelerate the transformation.

“So please, let us work together, government and private sector,” said the President. “Together, it will be done.”

The President's Day: March 3, 2012

The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: March 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today at headed the Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City to pay his respects to the publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Isagani M. Yambot Sr.

The President offered his prayers and sympathized with Yambot's wife, Mildred.

Yambot died on March 2, ten days after a heart bypass at the St. Therese Hospital in Pasig City.

The President's Day: March 5, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oaths of office of recently appointed government officials. In ceremonies held at the at Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace, the President sworn in officers of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB)-Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), John Hay Management Corporation, Clark Development Corporation, Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM), Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), Philippine Postal Corporation (PHILPOST), and Dangerous Drugs Board. [Ref.]

For the rest of the day, President Aquino presided over meetings.

The President's Day: March 6, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III the **Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)** Plaza in Makati City to attend the bell ringing ceremony in celebration of the PSE index's (PSEi) breaching of the 5,000-point closing level.

On Friday, March 2, the PSEi recorded an all-time high with 5,016.30 points. The PSEi closed at 5,030.58 points, another all-time high, on Monday.

According to PSE Chairman Jose Pardo, the PSEi has increased by 52 percent since the Aquino administration started.

During the event, the President led the ringing of the bell as the traders and participants exhibited their bliss with the historic achievement.

The President's Day: March 7, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a meeting in Malacañan Palace concerning the passage of the Tobacco Excise Tax bill.

He met with the Cabinet economic cluster, Speaker of the House Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales Jr., the authors of the Tobacco Excise Tax bill, and the House Ways and Means Committee members. The parties have agreed to the quick passage of the measure.

President Aquino presided over other meetings conducted within the Palace over the course of the day.

The President's Day: March 8, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today presided over a series of meetings with his advisers and Cabinet officials conducted within Malacañan Palace.

The President also issued, during the day, **Proclamation No. 351** declaring March 22 as a non-working holiday in Cavite to commemorate the birth of Emilio Aguinaldo, first President of the Philippines and the first Republic.

The President's Day: March 9, 2012

morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed the officials of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) in a courtesy call at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Nippon Keidanren is an organization in Japan that aims accelerate the growth of the world and the Japanese economy's growth.

Nippon Keidanren's delegation, composed of 18 members, was led by Chairman Hiromasa Yonekura and Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe.

According to Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, possible investment areas in infrastructure, energy, and tourism were discussed during the meeting.

Following the call, the President presided over more meetings within the Palace.

The President's Day: March 10, 2012The President had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: March 11, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the wake of **Jose Cardinal Sanchez D.D.** It was held the Cathedral Shrine of the Good Shepherd in Quezon City. While there, the President offered his prayers for the late cardinal.

Cardinal Sanchez was the Archbishop Emeritus of **Nueva Segovia**. He was declared cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 1991.

On Friday, March 9, Cardinal Sanchez passed away as a result of multiple organ failure at Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center in San Juan City. He died at the age of 91, eight days before his 92nd birthday. Two days earlier, Deputy Spokesperson Valte released a statement on the death of Sanchez on President Aquino's behalf.

The President's Day: March 12, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings within Malacañan Palace throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: March 13, 2012

The President spent the day in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: March 14, 2012

The President had no public events today. He spent the day in some meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: March 15, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings and worked on state papers within Malacañan Palace throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: March 16, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, the President visited the Palace's New Executive Building to inspect its premises. He spoke with the Malacañang Engineering Office head about possible improvements.

This evening, President Aquino went to The Peninsula Manila in Makati City to deliver an address at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Anvil Business Club.

In his speech, the President imparted a lesson that there will always be an influx of challenges in any entity—may it be business or politics. Demands among the players involved would emerge continuously as goals and context change.

“But this tension, in fact, is unnecessary,” President Aquino said. “The central issue today is how both demands can be met in a reasonable way.”

He stressed that the country's vision is growth not merely for the few with ranks but “for everyone who has a stake in our enterprise.”

He said the Philippines is on track in becoming one of the more successful economies and that the challenge is to further accelerate the transformation.

“So please, let us work together, government and private sector,” said the President. “Together, it will be done.”

The President's Day: March 17, 2012

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: March 18, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today led the commencement exercises of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "BAGWIS" Class of 2012 at Fort General Gregorio H. del Pilar in Baguio City. The ceremonies were held at Fort del Pilar's Fajardo Grandstand, where the President led the presentation of awards and diplomas. As per tradition, he presented the Presidential Saber to the class valedictorian, Cadet Tom V. Puertollano.

In his speech, President Aquino told the graduating cadets that their "vacation" in the PMA—four years of intense training—is now over: they would now have to face the real world and all its challenges. He warned the cadets that criminals and rebel groups are not the only dilemmas they will encounter.

"Nandiyan ang tukso ng katiwalian," said the President, who stressed that they should never give in to invitations of corruption, and the trust of the people should never be broken. "Ang ating lakas ay nanggagaling sa atin pong mga boss: ang mamamayang Pilipino," he said. "Huwag ninyong kalilimutang sa kahit na anong bakbakan, ang laging mananaig ay ang pinapanigan ng taumbayan."

Government officials present during the event include Vice President Jejomar Binay, Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin, PMA Superintendent Major General Nonato Peralta, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jessie Dellosa, Vice Admiral Alexander Pama of the Navy, Lieutenant General Emmanuel Bautista of the Philippine Army, Major General Lauro Catalino dela Cruz of the Airforce, Baguio City Mayor Maurice Domogan, Baguio Representative Bernard Vegara, and Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan.

The President's Day: March 19, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings in Malacañan Palace.

The President was also briefed on projects with pending requests for special authority for loan agreement during the day.

The President's Day: March 20, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III started his day reading documents at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace. Documents are prepared for the President every morning before his meetings and engagements. Later, at the Palace Music Room, President Aquino received a courtesy call from the Czech First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, who was in the Philippines on an official visit from March 19 to 21, 2012.

His trip is expected to further strengthen Philippine – Czech relations, as renewed agreements would be discussed. The Czech Republic is the country's eighth biggest export market in Europe with trade amounting to \$300 million from January to November 2011. The courtesy call was one of a number of meetings President Aquino presided over today.

Today, the President was also interviewed by the international news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP), in which he discussed Philippine-U.S. relations., among other topics.

The President's Day: March 21, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III, this morning, presided over a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, and Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon Paje at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President also welcomed the delegation of the 2012 Team-Philippines Germany who was in the country for an investment mission under the Aquino administration's economic policies.

The President, together with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, met with the team at the Palace Heroes Hall.

The President's Day: March 22, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) board meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace.

The NEDA board approved 12 projects worth P133 billion. The projects approved are the following:

1. Market Transformation through Introduction of Energy Efficient Electric Tricycle (E-Trike) Project.

Proponent: Department of Energy.

2. Agus VI Hydroelectric Power Plant (Units 1 and 2) Upgrading Project.

3. Land Transportation Office Infrastructure and Information System (LTO-IIS) Project.

Proponent: Department of Transportation and Communication.

4. Jalaar River Multipurpose Irrigation Project Phase II.

Proponent: Department of Agriculture – National Irrigation Administration.

5. Umayam River Irrigation Project (URIP).

Proponent: Department of Agriculture – National Irrigation Administration.

6. Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) – Irrigation Component Phase II. Proponent: Department of Agriculture – National Irrigation Administration.

7. Bridge Construction Project for Expanded Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) Development – Umiray Bridge.

Proponent: Department of Agrarian Reform.

8. Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Program (INREMP).

Proponent: Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

9. Baler–Casiguran Road Improvement Project.

Proponent: Department of Public Works and Highways.

10. Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Measures in Low-Lying Areas of Pampanga Bay Project.

Proponents: Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of Education.

11. LRT 1 South Extension Project.

Proponent: Department of Transportation and Communication.

12. Samar Pacific Coastal Road Project.

The meeting lasted until the late afternoon.

Afterward, President Aquino proceeded to Heroes Hall of the Palace to lead in the celebration of the 115th founding anniversary of the Office of the President. He was a little late as the above-mentioned projects were thoroughly discussed and the NEDA board meeting was thus extended beyond schedule.

During the program, the President, assisted by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., presented certificates of recognition to 15 retirees of the Office of President for their service to the institution.

The following were presented with the recognition:

Eugenio Barroga (Engineering Office), Estelito Cabanlit (Engineering Office), Carlito Catayong (Office of the DES for Legal Affairs), Filipino Coloma (Engineering Office), Amante Ribuca (Engineering Office), Evelio Pilola Jr. (Office of the Senior Deputy Executive Secretary), Ernesto Reyes (Malacañang Records Office), Loreto Rosario (Malacañang Records Office), Oscar Camus (deceased; Office of the DES for Legal Affairs), Anthony Teodoro Garcia (deceased; Malacanang Motor Pool), Reno Manangat (deceased; Engineering Office), Ernesto Mendoza (deceased; Engineering Office), Roque Olvido (deceased; Engineering Office), Alejandro (Paulino deceased; Engineering Office), and Salvador Victoriano (deceased; Engineering Office). [*Ref.*]

President Aquino also delivered an address highlighting the dedication and contributions of the awardees.

He assured them that their hard work, and the hard work of those like them will be felt by the Filipino people as reforms throughout government and society. The President encouraged everyone to continue the mission of bringing about change in the Philippines.

The President's Day: March 23, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

The WIPO is the arm of the United Nations (UN) dedicated to push creativity for the “economic, social and cultural development of all countries” through system services, laws, and balanced infrastructure.

After noon, the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Energy Jose Rene Almendras, and Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda in the Palace to discuss the power situation in Mindanao.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino welcomed the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, who just arrived in the country for a five-day state visit.

In ceremonies held at the Palace grounds, the sheikh was accorded with full military honors upon arrival. The President escorted the Amir to the Palace, where the sheikh signed the Palace guestbook. After, both leaders headed to the Music Room for a quick courtesy call. This was followed by a bilateral meeting and the signing of agreements held at the Aguinaldo Room and President's Hall, respectively. At the President's Hall, President Aquino conferred the Order of Lakandula upon the Amir.

The Order of Lakandula is “conferred upon an individual who has devoted his life to the peaceful resolution of conflict; upon an individual whose life is worthy of emulation by the Filipino people; or upon a Crown Prince, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice or the equivalent, foreign minister or other official of cabinet rank, Ambassador, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing.” [Ref.]

The event concluded with President Aquino hosting a banquet in honor of the sheikh at the Palace Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

The sheikh's visit further enhanced the growing relationship between the Philippines and Kuwait, specifically in cooperation in the fields of labor, trade, and investment.

The State of Kuwait is one of the country's leading investors from the Middle East.

The President's Day: March 24, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today led the 33rd commencement exercises of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) "Sinagtala" class of 2012 held in Camp General Mariano N. Castañeda in Silang Cavite. The program was held in Camp Castañeda's Campos Grandstand, during which the President presented the diplomas to the graduating cadets. He presented the Presidential Kampilan Award to Cadet Marjorie A. Samson, class valedictorian.

Afterward, the President delivered a speech lauding the police for their bravery and dedication in keeping society safe. He shared the stories of Police Senior Inspector Jay G. Dema-ala and Senior Inspector Charity Galvez during their encounters with rebel groups in Davao del Norte and Agusan del Sur, respectively.

"Kaya naman sa dalawandaan at dalawampung graduates ng Class Sinagtala na pinanday ng PNPA, tularan ninyo ang mga nauna sa inyong patuloy na nagpapamalas ng katapangan at kabayanihan para sa bayan," said President Aquino.

The President advised the class of the dangers of the real world. He warned them that corruption would continuously test their integrity. He urged them not to succumb to its temptation.

"Malinaw po: ang paggawa ng tama ay nagbubunsod ng mas matibay na lipunan, na may magandang ekonomiya," he said.

"Tinatawag kayong Sinagtala—liwanag na nasisilayan sa pagtingala natin sa kalangitan, na siyang kanlungan ng ating mga pinakamatayog na adhikain," President Aquino said. "Nawa'y maging tanglaw kayo ng katapatan at pananagutan, at maging bantayog ng pagbabago sa ating bayang muling bumabangon sa ngalan ng integridad, katarungan, at kasaganahan."

The President's Day: March 25, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the birthday of Cavite 3rd district Representative Erineo Maliksi at the Villa Emilia Farm in Imus, Cavite, today.

The President delivered brief remarks during the occasion, during which he talked about the administration-approved P60-billion LRT Line 1 south extension project.

According to President Aquino, the extension—which will reach Bacoor, Cavite, upon completion—would make things easier for residents from Cavite and nearby areas to commute to Metro Manila.

The President's Day: March 26, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet officials throughout the course of the day. The meetings were held in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 27, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the Peninsula Manila in Makati City to attend the Philippine Investment Forum conducted by Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC (Euromoney).

Euromoney is one of the world's leading media groups that delivers information pertinent to finance, law, energy, and transport clusters.

The President, accompanied by Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, proceeded to the Old Manila Restaurant to meet the selected delegates of the forum.

Afterward, he proceeded to the Rigodon Ballroom for the event's program.

During the occasion, President Aquino delivered a **speech** discussing the country's recovery from the destitution of the past.

The President said that the Philippines continues to make reforms as public funds are being managed and allotted in areas essential for development.

People are being held accountable for and issues regarding government agencies are being cleansed as public trust is being brought back to the government.

"We have fought the culture of nay-saying and negativity, and have given a sense of empowerment to our people, replacing the hopelessness of the past with a steadfast commitment to building a society that indeed works," he said.

President Aquino expressed his optimism with the progress the country is treading and thanked the investors for their trust. He then stressed the importance of working as a cohesive whole:

"We want to leave no one behind on the straight and narrow path to progress, because we know that the success of our story—of the Philippines' story—is dependent on the success of each and every one of the characters who play a part in it: from the farmer who gets up before sunrise every day, to the men and women who clock into work at 9 a.m., to you, the investors who have placed your bets on the Philippines."

Following the event, President Aquino proceeded back to the Palace to preside over meetings and to shoot a series of video messages for upcoming events and holidays. One of the videos recorded the President's **Lenten message**, which will be released on April 3.

The President's Day: March 28, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a series of meetings in Malacañan Palace.

This morning, the President chaired a meeting on voter registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) at the Palace President's Hall.

Cabinet officials present during the meeting include Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr., Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang.

This evening, President Aquino proceeded to the Eastwood Central Plaza in Libis, Quezon City, to deliver a speech at the grand launching of OPM2Go, an original Pilipino music (OPM) online store.

In his speech, the President talked about how close Filipino music was to him. He shared how music changes one's mood.

"Tunay nga po na nagdudulot ng positibong biyaya ang musika, hindi lamang sa personal na nibel, ngunit maging sa kalakhang lipunan," he said.

President Aquino also acknowledged the dangers brought by piracy to music and its industry. He lauded the online music store's step in addressing the dilemma: Ito naman po ang hatid na pagbabago ng OPM2GO: Dahil mapapadali at mapapabilis ang distribusyon ng mga kanta kumpara sa pagbenta ng mga CD, magbubukas ito ng mga panibagong merkado—maitatawid ito sa mas maraming tagapakinig, saan mang sulok ng mundo."

The President furthermore urged the musicians to continue creating their craft.

"Asahan naman ninyo, narito ako, sampu ng mga kababayan ninyong Pilipino—handang makinig at tumangkilik sa mga obrang nilikha at lilikhain pa ninyo," he said.

Moreover, during the day, President Aquino issued Proclamation No. 359, declaring April 15-20 as Purchasing and Supply Management Week. The proclamation aims to increase awareness of the importance of the roles of purchasing managers in the commercial industry.

The President's Day: March 29, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today headed to the McKinley Hill Town Center in Taguig City to attend the inauguration of the Hewlett-Packard (HP) Briefing Center and Mission Control Center.

HP is an institution committed to servicing the society through developing revolutionary technology. It has branches located in more than 170 countries worldwide.

During his speech during the event, the President talked about the role of technology in our lives.

He said that from business to personal matters, technology has made the process of communication easier. It has paved the way for progress and building relationships.

"This event continues the positive trend of making each sector of society more efficient through new and emerging technologies," President Aquino said.

The President also said the inauguration was proof of investors' confidence in the capability of the country.

"I am also told that this Mission Control Center, which is meant to gather, monitor, and report on data and to enhance collaboration among HP delivery centers, is the only establishment of its kind in the world that HP has," he said.

"HP's expansion, and their establishment of a first-of-its-kind facility here, proves further just how much confidence the global community has in our country," President Aquino added.

The President addressed the Filipinos working for HP. He urged them to continue proving to investors that they made the right decision in investing in the Philippines.

President Aquino was also given a tour of the HP facilities.

Following the event, the President attended the inauguration of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK)-Korean War Memorial Hall at the Libingan ng mga Bayani Annex in Taguig City.

The memorial hall was constructed as a symbol of friendship between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea (ROK). More than 7,000 Filipino soldiers were dispatched to the Korean peninsula to aid ROK during the war in the 1950s. President Aquino was given a tour of the hall and viewed its exhibits.

During the event, President Aquino delivered a speech. He said the hall was testament to the bravery and sacrifice of the people who fought for freedom during the war.

"Here, we remember the men of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea," said the President.

"Here, we look back on a shining moment in our history, and we are reminded of the special bonds that have tied our fate to that of the Korean people for more than 60 years," he added.

Afterward, the President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: March 30, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries and advisers throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: March 31, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III appointed members of the judiciary in the cities of Pasig, Malabon, and Parañaque.

In an interview, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte announced that the President has appointed seven new judges to the lower courts. They are the following:

Judge Christian Emmanuel G. Pimentel, *Pasig Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 69*

Judge Jimmy Edmund G. Batara, *Malabon Regional Trial Court Branch 72*

Judge Leilanie Marie D. Grimares, *Parañaque Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 87*

Judge Belen S. Carasig, *Parañaque Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 88*

Judge Harold Cesar C. Hulganga, *Parañaque Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 89*

Judge Marisa M. Buenagua, *Parañaque Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 90*

Judge Christian P. Castaneda, *Parañaque Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 91*

The President's Day: April 1, 2012

The President had no public events today. He spent his day in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: April 2, 2012

In line with the administration's efforts in keeping travelers safe during the Holy Week, President Benigno S. Aquino III personally inspected major seaports, airports, and bus terminals in Metro Manila today.

Accompanied by Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, he inspected Pier 2, North Harbor in Manila; the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City; and the Araneta Center Bus Terminal in Quezon City.

The President expressed his pleasure with how the terminals are coming up with, and implementing, new systems convenient to the traveling public.

He lauded NAIA Terminal 3 for opening more gates to hasten the entry of passengers. The bus terminal in Cubao, he said, has also made significant changes.

The President's inspection of the facilities of NAIA Terminal 3 was unannounced; it was a surprise inspection. Nevertheless, except for some faucets and an escalator that need fixing, the President said the terminal was satisfactory. He noted the facilities would soon be fixed. Furthermore, the President took the chance to speak with passengers and listen to their concerns.

This evening, President Aquino proceeded to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay to depart for Cambodia. He will participate in the 20th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit.

Before his departure, the President delivered a statement, in which he said the summit will discuss issues such as the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and battling illegal drugs in the region.

“Patitibayin din natin ang ating bayanihan sa disaster risk reduction and management, upang mas maging epektibo ang pagresponde natin sa ating mga kababayan sa panahon ng sakuna,” he said.

President Aquino also said he would take the chance to visit fellow Filipinos working and residing in Cambodia.

The President arrived at the VVIP Phnom Penh International Airport Monday night.

Furthermore, during the day, President Aquino issued Memorandum Order No. 35 reconstituting the Office of the President Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) committee.

The President's Day: April 3, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III is in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to participate in the 20th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders' Summit. He arrived in Cambodia the evening prior. The following are the activities of the President by estimated time. Please note that Phnom Penh is one hour behind Manila.

9:30 a.m. – (10:30 a.m. Manila time)

The President attended the Opening Ceremony of the 20th ASEAN Leaders' Summit and the Celebration of the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN. The ASEAN Leaders' Summit is the supreme decision-making mechanism in the ASEAN Region, which provides policy guidance and makes decisions on key issues pertaining to the realization of the objectives of ASEAN.

The ASEAN Summit is held twice a year and hosted by the Member State holding the ASEAN Chairmanship. ASEAN leaders meet to discuss ASEAN community-building initiatives and other intra-ASEAN issues, as well as exchange views on regional and international issues.

10:45 a.m. – (11:45 a.m. Manila time)

The President attended the 20th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session. The leaders are expected to discuss the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural development of ASEAN Member States. President Aquino called on ASEAN Member States to arrive at a common position on a regional Code of Conduct (COC) before meeting with China to craft a proposed legally binding document that would guide claimant states in the West Philippine Sea. Read more about this through this [press release from the DFA](#).

12:30 p.m. – (1:30 p.m. Manila time)

Following the plenary session, the President attended a lunch hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

2:00 p.m. – (3:00 p.m. Manila time)

The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Representatives. The AIPA was formed to attain the goals and aspirations of ASEAN through interparliamentary cooperation. The AIPA General Assembly (GA) is held annually in which the AIPA meets with ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

The current AIPA Secretary General is former Cebu City Congressman Antonio V. Cuenco. He was appointed for the term 2010-2013. The AIPA Secretary General oversees the AIPA Secretariat and all its functions.

3:00 p.m. – (4:00 p.m. Manila time)

The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Representatives. The meeting provides CSOs with the opportunity to affirm their engagement in the ASEAN, as an important element in creating a more people-oriented ASEAN Community by 2015. The meeting took up the function of CSO as advocates on issues such as human rights, inter-faith dialogue, and climate change, which are important to ASEAN.

4:00 p.m. – (5:00 p.m. Manila time)

The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with Youth Representatives, which provided an opportunity for ASEAN Youth Representatives to update their leaders on their achievements and activities.

There were three youth representatives from the Philippines: Commissioner Earl Pioquinto Saavedra of the National Youth Commission, Ms. Janeca Cortez Naboya, and Mr. Matthew Ramos Valdeavilla.

6:30 p.m. – (7:30 p.m. Manila time)

The President was granted an audience with His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni. H.S. succeeded his father, King Norodom Sihanouk, in October 2004 after the latter abdicated the throne. He accepted the role of monarch after a unanimous vote of approval by Cambodia's nine-member Throne Council.

7:00 p.m. – (8:00 p.m. Manila Time)

The President attended the Royal State Banquet hosted by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni for the ASEAN Leaders.

9:20 p.m. – (10:20 p.m. April 3, 2012, Manila Time)

The President met with members of the Philippine media to discuss the day's events and other issues.

The President's Day: April 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III is in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to participate in the 20th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders' Summit. This is his second full day in Cambodia, in which the President participates in the concluding activities of the summit. The following are the President's activities by estimated time. Please note that Phnom Penh is one hour behind Manila.

9:00 a.m. – (10:00 a.m., Manila time)

The President attended the 20th ASEAN Summit Retreat with the ASEAN Heads of State and ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan. The Retreat is a venue for the leaders to have an open and frank exchange of views.

President Aquino delivered a statement regarding the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. He said the Philippines is pleased that the ASEAN is now working to identify the elements of a regional Code of Conduct (COC) as a legally binding instrument, and said that ASEAN Member States should arrive at a common and collective position on the COC before meeting with China to craft a legally binding code in the West Philippine Sea. Read the [statement of the president here](#).

He also discussed the plan of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to launch a long-range ballistic missile between April 12 and 16. He called for concerted international action to persuade the DPRK to abandon its plan, which violates UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, and presents risks to all concerned. He emphasized that the situation in the Korean Peninsula has far-reaching implications on regional stability, which is essential to the continuing progress of Asia-Pacific countries. Read an [article about this here](#).

11:30 a.m. – (12:30 a.m., Manila time)

Following the Retreat, the President attended the 20th ASEAN Summit Concluding Session, the last event for the 20th ASEAN Summit. This was a ceremonial event, and no formal discussion was held.

12:15 p.m. – (1:15 p.m., Manila time)

The President attended the 8th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit. The BIMP-EAGA Leaders Summit is an annual meeting held by the heads of state of the BIMP-EAGA member countries to discuss the progress and developments on initiatives for the subregion, and to consequently provide the directives that will guide relevant country ministers and stakeholders in pursuing definitive actions to further strengthen subregional cooperation.

The technical host for this year was Brunei Darussalam, and his Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah chaired the summit.

1:15 p.m. – (2:15 p.m., Manila time)

The President had lunch with the ASEAN delegates.

4:00 p.m. – (5:00 p.m., Manila time)

The President met with the Filipino community in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The President touched base with the local Filipino community including the leaders of the Filipino organization, Samahan ng Mga Pilipino sa Cambodia (SAMAPI). He shared the good news on government's accomplishments.

5:50 p.m. – (6:50 p.m., Manila Time)

The President departed for Manila from the Phnom Penh International Airport.

9:20 p.m., Manila Time

The President arrived in Manila at the Villamor Airbase. He delivered his arrival statement, giving a recap of what happened, and of what was accomplished during his trip.

“Ang matagumpay nating biyahe sa 20th ASEAN summit ay sumasalamín sa positibong bunga ng ating mga reporma: sa pagtataguyod natin ng isang gobyernong nangingibabaw ang mabuting pamamahala at pakikipagkapwa, nabubuo na po ang tiwala at kumpiyansa ng buong mundo sa Pilipinas,” he said. Read the **full statement of the President here**.

The President's Day: April 6, 2012

This Good Friday, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the wake of broadcast journalist Angelo Castro Jr., who was most well-known as the anchor of the news television program *The World Tonight*, and instrumental in the creation and success of the primetime news program *TV Patrol*.

The President took a moment to extend his condolences and chat with Castro's wife, June Keithly, and their son, Diego.

Castro died of lung cancer the previous day, **Maundy Thursday**.

The President's Day: April 5, 2012

Today, Maundy Thursday, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, on behalf of President Benigno S. Aquino III, released a statement on the death of veteran broadcaster Angelo Castro Jr., who died today after a long battle with lung cancer.

Castro was most well-known as the anchor of the news television program *The World Tonight*, and was instrumental in the creation and success of the primetime news program *TV Patrol*. Read [Lacierda's statement here](#).

The President had no public events scheduled for the day.

The President's Day: April 7, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events this Black Saturday.

The President's Day: April 8, 2012

The President had no public events on this day.

Today, his Easter message was released:

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P10PULoqbHI>[/youtube]

The President's Day: April 9, 2012

Today, the country observed the 70th anniversary of the fall of Bataan during World War II, which was declared Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) in honor of those who fought in the historical battle. [*In commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan, the Official Gazette website has created an interactive timeline of World War II in the Philippines. To access it, click [here](#).*]

President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to the Dambana ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat in Pilar, Bataan, via aircraft to lead the ceremonies to commemorate the heroism and valor of the Filipinos and Americans who fought for the country.

Upon arrival, the President was accorded full military honors. He proceeded to the colonnade for a wreath laying ceremony and led the awarding of winners of the oratorical, creative painting, and World War II history quiz contests conducted in various schools throughout the country to celebrate Araw ng Kagitingan.

President Aquino delivered a speech highlighting the valor displayed by the Filipinos during the war. He shared instances of their sacrifices and said we owe the country's freedom to our veterans.

He also honored the current Philippine Armed Forces, assuring them of the government's continued support in upgrading the soldiers' standard of living and improving military facilities.

"Karangalan po ang magsilbi sa bayan bilang sundalo; at mas malalim na karangalan ang dumaan sa pasakit para ipagtanggol ang kalayaan," said President Aquino.

He said that on March 31, 2012, wider health benefits would be available for Filipino war veterans, and that 599 hospitals in our country have been accredited by the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center as regional or provincial extensions.

"Dahil rin po sa ipinapatupad na Direct Remittance Pension Servicing System, mas mabilis at mas wasto nang matatanggap ng mga beterano ang kanilang pension," the President said.

"Nilinis na rin po ang mga talaan ng mga pensyonado nating kababayan, upang masigurong ang pera ay nakakarating sa dapat nitong hantungan," he added.

The President's Day: April 10, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a series of meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

This afternoon, the President received Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, who visited Malacañan Palace. The Sheikh was in the country for a two-day state visit. He was accorded full military honors upon his arrival at the Palace.

President Aquino ushered the Sheikh into the Palace grounds. Inside the Palace, the Emir signed the Palace Guestbook, after which they conducted a formal courtesy call.

Following the courtesy call, the President and the Sheikh proceeded to the Aguinaldo Room for a bilateral meeting, wherein five business agreements were signed. The agreements tackled strengthening the Philippines and Qatar's cooperation in the areas of tourism, justice, and agriculture and fisheries.

After the meeting, President Aquino hosted a state banquet in honor of the Emir.

Visit this [link](#) for files pertinent to the Emir's state visit.

The President approved three Republic Acts (RAs) today: RA 10159, amending Article 39 of the Revised Penal Code; and RAs 10160 and 10161, converting the Municipality of Bacoar and Imus in the province of Cavite, respectively, into component cities.

The President's Day: April 11, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers at Malacañan Palace.

After noon, he proceeded to the Manila Hotel, where he was conferred an honorary Doctorate of Laws by the Centro Escolar University (CEU).

During the event, President Aquino delivered speech stressing the importance of justice and of a strong justice system in maintaining order and stability in the country.

The President said a strong justice system would determine the efficiency of government, and that establishing reforms is essential to achieving the dream of a better society.

“Tungkulin nating manindigan para sa isang sistemang pangkatarungan na may katiyakan. Isang hukuman kung saan ang inosente ay lalabas na inosente, at ang lumabag sa batas ay siguradong mapapanagot,” said President Aquino.

“Kung may butas man sa batas, nasa sa atin ang pagpuno nito, gamit ang katapatan, malasakit, at tunay na paglilingkod-bayan,” he added.

The President's Day: April 12, 2012

This morning, President Aquino received Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, at the Malacañan Palace grounds.

Governor-General Bryce was in the country for a two-day state visit. She was accompanied by her husband, Michael.

The President ushered the governor-general into the Palace, where he witnessed her sign the Palace Guestbook at the Reception Hall.

President Aquino was then paid a ceremonial courtesy call from Governor-General Bryce at the President's Hall. Afterward, both leaders headed back to the Reception Hall to issue a joint press statement.

To read the joint statement of President Aquino and Governor-General Bryce, please click [here](#).

Following the joint statement, the President attended private meetings in the Palace.

In the evening, President Aquino hosted a state banquet in honor of Governor-General Bryce at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

For a recap of Governor-General Bryce's state visit, click [here](#).

Furthermore, during the day, the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 29 directing all concerned government agencies to prepare for the inauguration of the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) as one of the New7Wonders of Nature.

The President's Day: April 13, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Cabinet secretaries before proceeding to Davao City for the Mindanao Power Summit.

The summit served as the venue for public officials and power industry stakeholders to address the power situation in certain areas of Mindanao.

In ceremonies held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel, the President delivered a **speech**, first sharing that in 2003, the National Power Corporation's (NAPOCOR) debt reached P1.23 trillion.

"This explains why Congress passed the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," President Aquino said.

He explained that the idea was for NAPOCOR to sell its power plants to private investors and use the proceeds to "pay and pair down its debt." "Businesses will improve our energy sector's capacities, as opposed to the old government-run system, in which these companies' leaders had no qualms about mortgaging the country's future to temporarily satisfy the people, and to please the appointing body."

The President discussed the current problems on relying on hydropower considering the myriad of elements that could affect water flow. He stressed the need to establish more power plants in the region to satisfy the growing demand.

"The simple truth is: we can have a lot more energy, but we have to provide the incentives for businesses to come here to put up those plants. Therefore, there will be a change in what we have to pay," President Aquino said.

"We will have to pay, perhaps, a bit more," he added. "You have to pay more because this is the reality of economics, not the rhetoric of politics. Everything has its price. We have to pay a real price for a real service."

The President assured his audience that the government is doing everything as a large sum has been allotted for the rehabilitation of Units 1 and 2 of Agus 6. The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) has also approved the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Program to remedy four river basins and get water flowing again.

"What we need to realize is that the old days of cheap power are no longer sustainable, but we can maintain reasonable power rates. And you must also put in your fair share in solving this problem," President Aquino said.

The President's Day: April 14, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events this Saturday.

The President's Day: April 15, 2012

The President had no public events today.

The President's Day: April 16, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today received the credentials of Gilles Garachon and V.P. Hirubalan, ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of France and Singapore, respectively, at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Both ambassadors presented their credentials to the President, marking the start of their tour of duty in the country.

After welcoming Ambassadors Garachon and Hirubalan, the President proceeded to preside over meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: April 17, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oaths of office of new government officials. The ceremony was held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at the Palace's Heroes Hall, the President inducted the director and the officers for 2012 of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), the country's advertising umbrella group.

This afternoon, President Aquino proceeded to the Rizal Hall to receive, on behalf of his mother, an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bicol University posthumously conferred upon the late President Corazon C. Aquino.

During the ceremonies, the President received the late President Corazon Aquino's academic robe and plaques.

He later delivered a speech, in which he commended Bicol University for its contributions to the country's development, namely, its studies on coco coir and coco peat technology.

The President said he and his family are delighted with the honor they have conferred upon the former President.

"Patunay ang parangal na itong may hangganan man ang buhay ng tao, ang positibong naiambag niya para sa kaniyang kapwa at sa lipunan, at ang inspirasyong iniwan niya sa pisikal na mundo ay hindi kailanman magmamaliw," he said.

The President's Day: April 18, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers within Malacañan Palace throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: April 19, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City to attend the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD).

This year's ADD, also known as the "Second Ministerial Consultation Among Asian Countries of Labor Origin and Destination on the Administration of Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle," was organized to discuss the 2012 Framework of Regional Collaboration and to sustain dialogue among the 19 participating states. To learn more about the ADD, [please visit this page](#).

During the event, President Aquino delivered a [speech](#) stressing that one of his administration's missions is making the Philippines a place where a living could be earned.

He shared the reality that many Filipinos work abroad and have consistently been a "force for good," but nevertheless, one of the government's goals is to give them the option to come back should they want to. "Our reform efforts are focused on attracting more investments, creating more jobs, and giving our countrymen reason to believe that a good life awaits them here, at home," the President said.

He emphasized that this year's ADD was geared to discuss the welfare of migrant workers. "In other words, the idea behind our meeting today is to make sure of one thing: that the people do indeed come first," President Aquino said.

Following the event at Sofitel, the President visited the Coconut Palace, where he was toured by Vice President Jejomar Binay.

The Coconut Palace is where the Vice President holds office. It was renovated after Vice President Binay was given the use of the place as his office.

This afternoon, President Aquino presided over a meeting with the governors of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The meeting was held at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, he was paid a farewell call by Dr. Jacqueline Badcock, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines. The President met with Dr. Badcock at the Palace Music Room.

The President's Day: April 20, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, he proceeded to Cebu to attend a joint event: the 17th World Electronics Forum (WEF) and 108th Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) General Membership Meeting.

The WEF is an assembly participated in by the top officials of the electronics industry worldwide. The gathering is hosted by SEIPI, a group composed of the electronics companies in the Philippines.

During the ceremonies, held in the Mactan Shangri-La Hotel, the President delivered a speech thanking the semiconductor and electronics industry for continuing to invest in the country despite the challenges brought by the tragedy that hit Japan a year ago.

President Aquino assured them that the government is continuing to work hard to make reforms, and establishing and doing business in the country easier for investors.

“My government is determined to meet any challenge that might arise in your industry with equal resilience and equal fervor,” he said.

“You can continue to count on my administration’s active support for the semiconductor and electronics industries,” the President added.

Following the event, President Aquino proceeded back to Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: April 21, 2012

This evening, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Pasay City for the official inauguration of the **Puerto Princesa Underground River** (PPUR) as one of the **New7Wonders of Nature**.

The PPUR is an 8.2-km river located about 50 km north of Puerto Princesa City. It features major formations of stalactites and stalagmites, and large chambers. It is also a habitat for a myriad of fauna and flora species.

During the ceremonies, held at Pasay City's One Esplanade Grounds, President Aquino shared his experience visiting the PPUR.

"With walls and caverns that have been shaped by the elements and extraordinary formations of stalactites and stalagmites, the Underground River is a true example of the artistry of nature, when it is preserved and cared for by man," the President said.

He took the opportunity to endorse the underground river and stressed the importance of the tourism industry: "I am told that for each tourist that sets foot on our shores, one new job is created."

"So, at the end of the day, the success of the PPUR redounds to the success not just of those from Puerto Princesa, but also of all our countrymen across the nation," President Aquino said.

The President's Day: April 22, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: April 23, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries in Malacañan Palace.

This afternoon, the President proceeded to the Traders Hotel Manila in Pasay City to deliver an address at the Philippine Press Institute's 16th National Press Forum.

In his speech, President Aquino talked about the role of the press in shaping the nation and of the importance of balanced news and how it affects the mindset of people in and out of the country.

Read the full transcript of the President's speech [here](#).

Following the event, President Aquino headed back to Malacañan Palace where he received a courtesy call from Filipino boxers Sonny Boy Jaro, Johnriel "Quadro Alas" Casimero, and Donnie Nietes at the Music Room. All three won title bouts months prior.

After the call, the President presided over meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: April 24, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today presided over a meeting in Malacañan Palace on the Philippine Investment Plan covering years 2011–2016.

In the afternoon, the President led the launch of the K to 12 Basic Education Program, held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

The K to 12 Program is a response to the country's need of improving global competitiveness in the education sector. The program covers kindergarten and 12 years of basic education (six years of primary education, four years of junior high school, and two years of senior high school). This system aims "to provide sufficient time for mastery of concepts and skills, develop lifelong learners, and prepare graduates for tertiary education, middle-level skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship."

For more information on program, please visit www.gov.ph/k-12/.

During the event, President Aquino delivered a **speech** about today's generation and the "information age" in which they live, an era wherein a relatively vast pool of knowledge is needed in order to succeed in society.

He said the K to 12 Program would equip the youth with enough training and knowledge to be competitive globally in their respective fields.

"Sa K to 12, tiwala tayong mabibigyang-lakas si Juan dela Cruz upang mapaunlad—hindi lamang ang kanyang sarili at pamilya—kundi maging ang buong bansa," President Aquino said.

He also acknowledged that there would be challenges during the transitional phase of the program.

"Wala man pong perpektong solusyon sa lahat ng bagay, ang garantiya pong ibinibigay natin ay isang mas matibay na sistemang pang-edukasyon na pangmatagalan, at nakatuon sa kinabukasan ng ating mamamayan," the President said.

Following the launch, President Aquino headed back to the meeting on the Philippine Investment Plan before proceeding to the book launch of the People Power Volunteers for Reform (PPVR) at the Xavier School in San Juan City.

At the book launch, the President received the first copy of the book and delivered his remarks.

The President's Day: April 25, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a series of meetings with his Cabinet secretaries in Malacañan Palace.

Among the meetings that President Aquino attended to was an economic cluster meeting at the President's Hall.

The President's Day: April 26, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received two courtesy calls today. He met with the delegation of the Comunità di Sant'Egidio led by its President, Prof. Marco Impagliazzo; and Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia. The President received both parties at the Malacañan Palace Music Room.

In the afternoon, President Aquino was interviewed by CNN at the Quezon Room. Later in the evening, he proceeded to the World Trade Center in Pasay City for the 17th Anniversary of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), the government arm tasked to attract and manage investments in the country.

At the event, the President presented plaques of recognition to the respective awardees and tried on a pair of Epson Android-powered Moverio 3D glasses.

President Aquino also delivered an address highlighting that PEZA has brought in P465 billion of investments since the start of the Aquino administration.

"In 17 years of PEZA, this represents 23 percent of all investments generated by the authority. And, may I say again, this has happened in a span of less than two years," the President said.

He said this was proof of the "investors' newfound confidence in the Philippines" and gave the investors the assurance that the government would make sure to realize their expectation.

"We will make certain that the advantages you identified here will lead to more efficient businesses for all of you," President Aquino said. He stressed that partnerships were about helping each other and reaping mutual benefits, and bared the country's new culture in business and urged more businesses to be established in the country.

The President's Day: April 27, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew from Villamor Airbase in Pasay City to Cagayan de Oro City to lead the turnover of permanent shelter units to the displaced victims of Tropical Storm Sendong.

There, the President took the time to inspect the permanent shelters before proceeding with the formal program where he was expected to deliver a speech.

In his message, President Aquino expressed his delight that the permanent shelters were finished four months before the promised deadline of August 2012.

The President highlighted that teamwork was the key for the project's prompt completion.

“Ang totoo po: nakukuha natin ang katatagan mula sa mabuting pamamalakad ng pamahalaan; nakakamit natin ang sigasig mula sa malasakit ng mga katuwang na ahensiya at kalipunan; nahuhugot natin ang lakas mula sa tibay ng loob at pagsusumikap ng taumbayan,” said President Aquino.

“Ang akin naman pong panawagan: huwag tayong magsawa sa pagbabayanihan. Sama-sama po nating abutin ang mas maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa ating pong bayan,” he added.

The President assured everyone of continued government support as reforms and programs are being pursued to benefit the people and the country.

During the program, President Aquino presented awards and kitchen and food supplies to the respective beneficiaries.

In December 2011, Tropical Storm Sendong brought tragedy to the southern part of the Philippines: properties were destroyed and thousands of people killed and left homeless.

Rehabilitation efforts were conducted directly after the calamity. After four months of labor, the housing project promised to be completed on August 2012 was finished four months before the deadline.

The President's Day: April 28, 2012

The President had no public events today.

The President's Day: April 29, 2012

resident Benigno S. Aquino III was in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro today.

During his visit, the President graced the King Crab Farm in Barangay Anilao where he led the harvesting of King Crabs and inspected the aquaculture of the area.

He also took the moment to deliver brief remarks assuring the people of the government's plan in improving tourism opportunities in the area. President Aquino said that the government is investing on infrastructure that would make travel easier toward tourist destinations.

The President also granted the media an interview where he answered questions on various issues in the country. Among the matters bared by President Aquino was the news of the fourth tranche of the Salary Standardization Law III (SSL III) which may be implemented ahead of schedule.

The President attended the celebration of Oriental Mindoro Governor Alfonso Umali Jr.'s 57th birthday. Gov. Umali is the incumbent president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

The President's Day: April 30, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Japanese legislators this morning. He received Congressman Nobuteru Ishihara and former Congressman Hirotaka Ishihara at Malacañan Palace's Music Room.

After, President Aquino presided over other meetings in the Palace and worked on state papers throughout the course of the day.

The President issued **Executive Order No. 76** on this day, fast tracking the fourth tranche of the Salary Standardization Law III (SSL III). The fourth tranche will be implemented on June 1, 2012 for national government personnel.

The President's Day: May 3, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III, along with Senator Edgardo Angara, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and IBM Philippines which would establish the first systems and technology research laboratory in the Philippines. The signing was held at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace. The signatories were Secretary of Science and Technology Mario Montejo for the DOST, and IBM Philippines President Mariels Almeda Winhoffer.

The President granted the media a pocket interview after the signing.

Afterward, President Aquino received members of the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL) in a courtesy call at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President's Day: May 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today spoke at the **45th Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors**.

The annual meeting is participated in by “finance and economic planning ministers, government officials, representatives of the multilateral bank community, investment bankers, representatives of nongovernment organizations, and members of the media worldwide.” [*Ref.*] It serves as a venue for dialogue among the participating entities.

The ceremonies were held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. In his **speech**, the President talked about the fruits of his administration's ongoing fight against corruption, which include greater investor confidence and the proper use of public funding.

“As can be seen from our experience, weeding out corruption allows for a more fertile economic landscape: one that not only brings investors in, but also allows the real work of governance to impact the greatest number of our people,” the President said.

President Aquino said that the gains of good governance are being spread equally among Filipino citizens to endure continued growth and development.

The President is confident that change has indeed set in the Philippines. He said the country is ready to follow through on its commitments.

“You will continue to see results; you will continue to see a Philippines that is finally living up to its potential,” said President Aquino.

After the event, the President hosted a luncheon in honor of the Board of Governors at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

After the luncheon, President Aquino proceeded to attend to more engagements held in the Palace. He received courtesy calls from the delegation of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**) led by JBIC President Hiroshi Watanabe, the senior officials of the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**), and Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, the new president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**).

The President's Day: May 5, 2012

This afternoon, President Benigno S. Aquino III witnessed the oath taking of the new members of the Liberal Party-Negros Occidental in Talisay City.

He delivered a short address stressing the party's ideology of service to the country. He prompted the new Liberal Party members to always put the nation's interest first.

A day before taking their oaths, the new members went through an orientation. Their oaths were administered by Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, President of the Liberal Party.

Among the government officials and leaders present during the event were Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, Senator Franklin Drilon, Deputy House Speaker Erin Tañada, and former Akbayan Representative Risa Hontiveros.

The President's Day: May 6, 2012

Today the country commemorated the Fall of Corregidor to the invading Imperial Japanese Armed Forces 70 years ago, during the opening of the Pacific theatre of the Second World War.

Corregidor, a rocky island located at the mouth of Manila Bay, is also known as "The Rock." It was where Filipino and American soldiers alike made their last stand against the Japanese.

This was President Benigno S. Aquino III's first trip to Corregidor. He traveled to the island onboard the presidential yacht, the BRP *Ang Pangulo*.

Ceremonies were held at the island's Pacific War Memorial, where the President was accorded full military honors.

President Aquino delivered a **speech** highlighting the resilience and courage the soldiers exhibited in defense of the country.

"Today, we are reminded that partnerships, and even brotherhoods, are formed not only in moments of triumph, but in times of adversity," he said.

"In this Pacific War Memorial, the Eternal Flame of Freedom lights the pages of history, and marks every sacrifice made in this island," he added.

President Aquino took the opportunity to interact with veterans of the Second World War present.

After the event, the President was toured about the island.

The President's Day: May 7, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III went to Lingayen, Pangasinan, via aircraft to lead the opening ceremonies of the 2012 **Palarong Pambansa**.

The ceremonies were held at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center. The President, together with basketball star Danny Ildefonso, led the ceremonial lighting of the Torch and of the Urns of Peace and Friendship.

Delivering his remarks, the President highlighted the event as a platform for discovering talents that would in turn give recognition to the country in the international scene.

He talked about the hard work of many Filipino athletes who have already garnered distinction for the Philippines.

President Aquino said the participants of the Palaro shared the same discipline: “Alam kong hindi biro ang pagbabalanse sa paglalaro, at sa pagbabasa ng libro sa ekswela. Mulat akong may mga oras na kinakailangan ninyong isakripisyo ang panahon sa pamilya at mga kaibigan, para lang makatutok sa inyong kasanayan.”

“Sa inyong lahat na nandito ngayon: saludo ako sa inyo. Nawa’y maging mabuting halimbawa kayo sa mga kapwa ninyo kabataan,” he said. “Nawa’y maging bukal kayo ng inspirasyon sa iba pa ninyong mga kababayan.”

Read the full transcript of President Aquino's speech, [here](#).

Furthermore, during the day, the President visited the wake of Abante reporter Rose Miranda in Bacoar, Cavite.

President Aquino extended his condolences to Miranda's family.

Miranda was part of the Malacañang Press Corps. She died of breast cancer Saturday at the age of 39.

The President's Day: May 8, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today administered the oaths of office of the newly appointed generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces, as well as the officers-in-charge in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA). The ceremonies were held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace. Click [here for more photos](#).

After the oath taking, the President received the officials of the World Bank (WB) in a courtesy call at the Palace's Music Room.

The President's Day: May 9, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Sutherland Global Services' new facility in Carmona, Cavite.

Sutherland is a multinational BPO company that provides business solutions to major global industries. The company started in New York and has expanded to Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, India, Mexico, the Philippines, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom.

Upon arrival, President Aquino led the groundbreaking ritual. He was assisted by Sutherland Chairman Dilip Vellodi and Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo.

Afterward, he proceeded to the program and delivered an address thanking Sutherland for their continued trust in the country and urging them to continue investing more in the Philippines.

"Right now, your company employs more than 13,000 Filipinos heading to 15,000. And of your 30,000, you have given us half and the other half has been divided amongst nine countries," the President said.

He assured the industry and investors of the Philippines' commitment to fostering an efficient working environment.

The President also laid out the administration's efforts in training the Filipinos such as the Industry-based Training for Work Scholarship Program and the Advanced English Pre-Employment Training Program.

"We will endeavor to make you convinced that that is the route to go to," President Aquino said.

"On behalf of our people, I thank you for the role in growing our economy and, more importantly, for your belief in our countrymen, who have the skill, the creativity, and the work ethic to propel any company to even greater heights," he added.

Read the full transcript of President Aquino's speech [here](#).

After the event, the President went back to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: May 10, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries on the Metro Rail Transit System 7 (MRT-7) and on Mindanao Power. The meetings were held at the First Lady's Sitting Room and in the Study Conference Room, respectively. This afternoon, President Aquino received the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thongsing Thammavong, who was in the country for a state visit.

President Aquino ushered the Lao PM in the Palace where he witnessed PM Thongsing Thammavong sign the Palace guestbook. Both leaders then proceeded to the Music Room for a formal courtesy call.

Afterward, both parties proceeded to the Aguinaldo State Dining Room for a bilateral meeting. The signing of agreements followed in the Reception Hall, with President Aquino and PM Thongsing Thammavong as witness.

To cap the event, President Aquino hosted a banquet in honor of the Lao PM at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall.

The President's Day: May 11, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: May 12, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the closing ceremonies of the 2012 Special Action Force (SAF) Anniversary Challenge in Morong, Bataan.

President Aquino led the presentation of awards to the winners of the challenge.

He also delivered remarks, calling on the participants to remember, as they train and hone their skills, that their allegiance is to the public.

The SAF anniversary challenge is an annual event designed to train and strengthen camaraderie among the teams of the Special Action Force, which is the national mobile unit of the Philippine National Police.

The President's Day: May 13, 2012

The President had no public events today.

The President's Day: May 14, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Davao City via aircraft to lead the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) People's Organization Congress.

In ceremonies held at the Grand Regal Hotel, the President delivered a **speech** thanking the MRDP for being a catalyst for the efforts to improve Mindanao.

President Aquino highlighted the "geo-tagging system" that would track the consummated projects of the government. He said the system, would help terminate the existence of bogus projects.

The President added that the government would pursue its efforts in improving the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"Isinabay natin ang halalan sa ARMM sa lokal at pambansang eleksyon, upang maghatid ng reporma at pag-asa sa rehiyon ng ARMM," he said.

"Sa paraang ito, malayang maitatalaga ng mga taga-ARMM ang nais nilang pinuno; malaya sa karahasan, pandaraya, at katiwalian," President Aquino added.

Furthermore, the President awarded local government units (LGUs) that made good their utilization of the MRDP Community Fund for Agricultural Development (CFAD).

Below are the awardees:

Mati City, Davao Oriental: Best performing LGU, CFAD implementation

Silay, Misamis Oriental: Best performing LGU, rural infrastructure implementation

Nasipit, Agusan del Norte: Best performing LGU, agro-forestry management

Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat: Best performing LGU, mangrove rehabilitation

Roseller Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay: Best performing LGU, fish sanctuary management

After the event, President Aquino granted the media a press conference at the hotel before returning back to Manila.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Marikina Hotel in Marikina City to deliver a speech at the National Transport Conference.

In his **speech**, President Aquino lauded the leaders and members of the transport groups for their initiative to work with government in its mission to improve the Philippines.

"Saludo ako sa ginawa ninyong rollback sa pasahe," he said. "Sa pagbabalik ninyo nito sa walong piso, mula sa P8.50. Walang pilitan, walang tulakan, walang bangayan—nagbukal po ito sa pagkukusa, nagbukal ito sa malasakit ninyo sa kapwa po Pilipino."

President Aquino shared that the government is working hard to make things easier for the transport groups and motorists in general. He said the Department of Transportation and Communications and its attached agencies, including the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Philippine National Police are implementing programs and filing sanctions against abusive law and traffic enforcers. The Department of Energy is doing its part

to find ways in lowering fuel prices; cooperatives are also being set up to provide affordable spare parts for the vehicles of the transport groups.

“Ang layunin: ang mapababa ang gastusin ng ating public transport drivers at operators, habang nabibigyan din sila ng pagkakataon na madagdagan ang kanilang maiuuwing kita,” said President Aquino.

“Tiyak ko po, sa matitipid na pera’t extra income ng ating mga drayber, lalo kayong magiging sweet lover,” he said, eliciting laughter and applause.

The President assured the transport leaders and members of continued support from the administration and urged everyone to join the wagon in making the country better.

The President's Day: May 15, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

In the afternoon, he received a courtesy call from Yutaro Shintaku, President of the Terumo Corporation at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Terumo Corp. is an institution that provides healthcare products and services in the healthcare market. Their company has branched out to the Philippines and is planning to upgrade its infrastructure in the country. It has an existing facility in Biñan, Laguna.

Afterwards, President Aquino granted national radio network Bombo Radyo an interview. He was interviewed by Bombo Radyo Philippines Network Director Elmar Acol at the President's Hall of the Palace.

Following the interview, the President presided over more meetings.

The President's Day: May 16, 2012

oday, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the 7th Puregold “Tindahan ni Aling Puring Sari-Sari Store” Convention at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

“Tindahan ni Aling Puring Sari-Sari Store” is a membership program set up for Puregold’s main customer base—wholesalers or owners of sari-sari stores and eateries—which aims to aid the Filipino in fostering entrepreneurship and flourishing start-up businesses.

During the convention, President Aquino delivered his remarks, lauding Puregold’s program of supporting the start-up businesses in the country. The President said that this initiative helps greatly both in shaping the Philippine economy and in providing a day-to-day convenience for people by helping small business owners.

“Mauhaw o magutom ka man sa daan, may nakahandang Mang Nestor Sari-Sari Store o Reyna’s Carinderia,” he said.

“Ang order mong ulam, hindi lang unlimited kanin ang kasama, may unlimited kuwento pa,” President Aquino added jokingly.

The President stressed the importance of the event. He highlighted that the convention would be a venue for dialogue and sharing ideas.

“Ang pinakamahalaga po rito: ang hindi tayo makuntento,” President Aquino said. “Lahat po ng mga pagsasanay na ito ay para maisagad ang mga oportunidad ninyong umunlad—ngayon at sa mga darating pang panahon,” he added.

Following the convention, the President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings.

Later in the afternoon, President Aquino headed to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to deliver an address at the premiere of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force documentary “Tagaligtas.”

In his speech, the President said the documentary was a testament to the unit’s bravery and dedication in safeguarding democracy.

“Samakatuwid, ang mga ganitong uri ng dokumentaryo ay nagsisilbing inspirasyon upang buhayin ang ating pagkamakabayan, at ipamulat sa atin kung bakit may kakambal na pagpapahalaga, katapatan, at pananagutan ang tinatamasa natin ngayong kalayaan,” he said.

The documentary is a feature on the PNP Special Action Force’s history. It recounts landmark events such as the Special Action Force’s role in defending Camp Crame during the martial law and safeguarding President Corazon Aquino’s government against the failed coup attempts throughout her tenure.

The documentary was produced by former Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Rafael Alunan III and directed by Bernard Dacanay.

In the evening, President Aquino attended the general assembly of the Joint Alumni Clubs at the Peninsula Manila in Makati City to deliver a speech.

The Joint Alumni Clubs is an organization composed of Filipino alumni groups from top American universities such as Harvard and Stanford. The group sponsors scholarships and various charitable programs in the country.

In his remarks, President Aquino shared his experience last Monday during the National Transportation Conference at the Marikina Hotel.

He talked about how the transport groups have reverted back its fare from P8.50 to P8.00 after oil prices started rolling back. This was done without the “tedious process of negotiation.”

“Perhaps these fifty centavos, equivalent to an extra hundred or so pesos a day for the drivers, is not such a big amount for most of us here. But to those who have less in life, it can mean a few extra meals—and they willingly gave this up in order to ease the burden on the common commuter,” he said.

“If our jeepney drivers can contribute to society in such a way, perhaps I can expect even more from captains of industry who hold the lives of so many Filipino workers in their hands,” President Aquino added.

The President's Day: May 17, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon he attended the 18th founding anniversary celebrations of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) at the Higher Education Development Center in Quezon City. CHED was created by decree of Republic Act No. 7722, approved by President Fidel V. Ramos on May 18, 1994.

The President also said CHED is continuing to safeguard the quality of education in the country through checking standards of courses offered in the various schools throughout the country. He gave his assurance that public funds would be invested in the proper programs and studies to improve the country's potential.

“Ang gusto natin: mapa-karpintero man, mananahi, mekaniko, doktor, guro, inhinyero, o abugado—anuman ang pangarap ng ating kabataan—nabibigyan sila ng kakayahan upang panghawakan ang sariling tadhana,” he said.

As part of the celebration, leaders of SUCs signed agreements that would reform public higher education. The President witnessed the ceremonial signing of a Manifesto by representatives of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) led by its president, Ricardo Rotoras. The manifesto signifies their commitment to complying with the Roadmap of Public Higher Education Reform 2011-2016.

The Public Higher Education Reform Roadmap has nine proposals aimed at improving the efficacy of how SUCs are run. These are: (1) rationalizing the number, distribution, and growth of public higher education institutions; (2) rationalizing program offerings; (3) rationalizing resource utilization, maximizing resource generation, and improving financial management; (4) strengthening quality assurance; (5) upgrading qualifications of faculty; (6) upgrading leading SUCs to international standards; (7) modernizing facilities of developing SUCs; (8) strengthening student financial assistance programs; and (9) strengthening public higher education management through an Executive Development Program.

Following the event, President Aquino headed back to the Palace where he received United Nations Population Fund Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin in a courtesy call at the Music Room.

Afterward, the President presided over more meetings in the Palace.

The President's Day: May 18, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries today.

The President's Day: May 19, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: May 20, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: May 21, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman David Hugh Wootton.

The Lord Mayor of London serves as the head of the City of London Corporation and the manager of financial centers across the United Kingdom.

Members of the Cabinet were with the President to meet him: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, and Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II. President Aquino received the Lord Mayor and his delegation at Malacañan Palace's Music Room.

Alderman Wootton was in the country with a business delegation to explore investment opportunities in the Philippines involving Philippine companies and the Public-Private Partnership program.

The President's Day: May 22, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers throughout the course the day.

The President's Day: May 23, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oaths of office of newly appointed government officials at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Among the government officials that took their oaths was Acting Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority Arsenio Balisacan.

Balisacan replaced former Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, who resigned earlier this month because of health reasons.

Following the oath taking, President Aquino proceeded to the President's Hall for a meeting on the road connector project of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

During the meeting, Metro Pacific Tollways Development Corporation Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan and San Miguel Corporation President Ramon Ang presented their proposals for the project. Pangilinan's proposal involved building an elevated road along the Philippine National Railways tracks, and Ang's proposal concerned linking Buendia and Balintawak also by an elevated motorway.

Both projects aim to solve traffic congestion in EDSA, and both are expected to boost tourism, as travel would be convenient from north to south Luzon.

Afterward, President Aquino presided over more meetings with his advisers throughout the day.

The President's Day: May 24, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech during the National Career Advocacy Congress at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

The National Career Advocacy Congress is a national gathering of career guidance counselors and government partners. The two-day conference was the first national assembly.

Participating government agencies include the following: Department of Labor and Employment, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Science and Technology, Professional Regulation Commission, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Philippine Information Agency.

In his remarks, President Aquino stressed the importance of education in establishing careers and nation building.

He said that the government is pouring its efforts in ensuring quality education as well as policing the standards of courses and pointing out career paths that are in demand.

“Ang gusto natin: magbunga ng ginhawa ang pagtitiyaga ng mga magulang; siguruhing may espasyong pupunan sa merkado ang ating graduates; at bigyan sila ng sapat na kakayahang itaguyod ang nais nilang larangan at ang kalakhang lipunan,” the President said.

In the afternoon, President Aquino participated in DepEd's 2012 Brigada Eskwela.

Brigada Eskwela is an annual initiative enjoining communities to repair and clean up public schools before the opening of a school year.

During the event held at the Apolinario Mabini Elementary School, the President made rounds inspecting the classrooms and mingled with the students and volunteers.

President Aquino also delivered a speech highlighting unity and teamwork as key in nation building. He cited the parents that set a moment to provide aid in the activity.

“Bawat pader na pinipinturahan ng bagong kulay, bawat mesa o upuan na nakukumpuni, bawat sulok na nalilinis, kapalit nito ay isang estudyanteng komportableng nakakatanggap ng kanyang mga leksiyon, isang gurong nakakapagturo ng mas maayos, isang Pilipinong naihahanda at nabibigyang-kakayahan na harapin ang mga hamon ng bukas,” the President said.

President Aquino shared the efforts that the government is investing in education, such as the amount allotted for education in the national budget and programs such as the K to 12. He also mentioned the endeavors in addressing classroom shortage: “Sa madaling salita, kung tuloy-tuloy ang pakikipagbayanihan ng pribadong sektor sa pamahalaan, pagdating ng 2013, bawat estudyante ay mabibigyan ng dekalidad na edukasyon sa loob ng dekalidad na silid-aralan.”

“Namumuhunan tayo sa edukasyon dahil dito nagmumula ang pangmatagalang kaunlaran ng ating bansa,” the President said.

Following the event, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: May 25, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was a guest at the Akbayan Party's 5th National Congress, held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City. He was seated with former Party Representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Presidential Political Adviser Ronald Llamas.

The president delivered a speech during the congress. You may view it [here](#).

To learn more about Akbayan, [visit their website](#).

Following the event, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers in the Palace. He then proceeded to the 17th National ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Alumni Association national convention at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"Ipinapaalala po ng ROTC sa kabataan ang kanilang pananagutan sa bandila at sa kanilang kapwa-Pilipino," said President Aquino during the speech.

"Itinatanim nito sa kanilang isip at puso ang obligasyon ng bawat isa upang manindigan para sa soberanya ng ating bansa, at panatilihin ang integridad ng ating mga teritoryo," he added.

The President continued to talk about the value of the training, which from coordination and strategy, and the value of the organization to society.

"Kayo ang nag-uugnay at nagsisilbing tulay sa pagitan ng Hukbong Sandatahan at ng mamamayan," he said.

"Ang pagkakaisa nga pong ito ang ating pinagsusumikapan, sapagkat alam nating ito ang magbibigay ng kakayahan upang higit nating maipagtanggol ang ating mga karapatan," he added.

The President's Day: May 26, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 2012 Global Day of Prayer at the V-Mall in San Juan.

In his speech, President Aquino shared the importance of faith in the lives of people. He said that it was faith that keeps a person's integrity especially during hardships and challenges.

"Thus is the power of prayer: it is a noble reminder of the value of humanity," the President said. "It allows our spiritual lives to permeate our day-to-day tasks, and, in doing so, we are able to become instruments of God's will that can change society for the better."

He urged everyone to be reminded of the practice as a form of unity and strength in bringing forth change in the country.

The President was prayed over by the participants during the occasion.

The President's Day: May 27, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: May 28, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III today attended the 75th anniversary celebration of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) at the GSIS head office in Pasay City.

President Aquino addressed the constituents of the GSIS, highlighting the institution's mandate of providing support for the welfare of public servants.

The President acknowledged the recent much-needed reforms of institution: "Kung dati, naging abala ang GSIS sa magagarbong art collection; ngayon, nalalapit nang mailipat ang pamamahala nito sa National Museum, at balik po ang GSIS sa kanyang tungkulin," he said.

"Tunay nga pong ang panunumbalik ng integridad sa GSIS ay nagdudulot ng magagandang resulta: umuusbong muli ang tiwala ng publiko sa mga institusyon ng gobyerno, at patuloy na tumataas ang kompiyansa ng mga negosyante sa atin pong bansa," said President Aquino.

The GSIS is a government-owned and -controlled corporation created under Commonwealth Act No. 186 which was passed on November 14, 1936. It provides and administers pension funds for employees of the Philippine government.

Following the event, the President presided over private meetings throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: May 29, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Kristiyanong Kabataan Para sa Bayan Youth Summit at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City this morning.

The President delivered a **speech**:

“Nagagalak po akong makaharap ang isang grupo ng mga kabataang Pinoy—na bukod sa matibay na pundasyon sa mga aral ng Panginoon—ay taglay din ang wagas na pagmamahal sa ating Inang Bayan,” he said. “Ngayon po, talagang naninidigan ang mga Pilipino; lalo na po nating nararamdaman na katuwang natin ang kabataan sa pagsusulong ng pagbabago. Bilib ako sa inyo, bilib ako sa kabataang Pilipino.”

“Patuloy po nating patunayan sa buong mundo na sa kapit-kamay nating pagtahak sa tuwid na landas, walang balakid ang sa atin ay magpapahinto—mananatiling nagniningas ang apoy ng pag-asang sinindiha natin noong simula,” he added.

The President was, furthermore, prayed over by the event's constituents.

This afternoon, President Aquino received a courtesy call from Sun Life Financial CEO Dean Connor at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, the President presided over private meetings for the rest of the afternoon. He was in one of these meetings when Chief Justice Renato Corona was convicted by the Senate standing as an the impeachment court. He approved a **message**, delivered by Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, on the matter.

President Aquino was paid an unscheduled courtesy call by the members of the prosecution panel at the Palace this evening.

The President's Day: May 30, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the 189th Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) commencement exercises at the PMMA complex in Zambales.

The President led the distribution of diplomas and the presentation of awards. He awarded the Presidential Saber, awarded to the member of the graduating class who topped all naval science subjects, to Midshipman Captain (M/Capt.) Junvic L. Camit, *BSMT*.

President Aquino **addressed** the graduates, congratulating them on their accomplishment, “dahil tapos na ang madadaling yugto ng inyong buhay; tapos na ang praktis at ang apat na taong pagpapahinog sa paaralan.”

“Simula na ang paglalayag sa tunay na lipunan; simula na ng pagsuong sa mga daluyong ng pagsubok; oras na ng pagpalaot upang pitasin ang katuparan ng inyo pong mga pangarap,” he added.

President Aquino stressed the importance of their roles in the maritime industry and acknowledged the hard work and sacrifices they would go through pursuing their career.

He gave his assurance that the government is working to provide more support as regards their rights and welfare.

“Bilang mga iskolar ng bayan, tungkulin ninyong isaalang-alang ‘di lamang ang kapakanan ng sarili at ng inyong pamilya, kundi pati na rin ang kalakhang lipunan,” said the President.

This afternoon, President Aquino convened a National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) board meeting at Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace. Among the Cabinet officials present was new Acting NEDA Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan. Eight projects were discussed, and out of the eight, two were approved:

The first project approved by the President the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Expressway, Phase 2, costing P15,860,053 billion. It will be a 4-lane elevated expressway with a total length of 5.2 kms, starting from Sales St. going to Andrews Ave., Domestic Road, MIA Rd., and ending at Roxas Blvd. It includes the construction of a toll plaza and five on and off ramps, and will would provide connectivity from Metro Manila’s main arteries to airport terminals 1, 2, and 3.

The second project is the the pilot phase of the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program, with a total capital cost of P26.3 billion

This evening, after the meeting, the President delivered a statement on the conviction of Renato Corona the previous day by the Senate standing as an impeachment court. Former Chief Justice Renato Corona was convicted on the basis of Article II of the Articles of Impeachment filed against him: 20 out of the 23 Senator judges casted the vote of guilty against Corona.

The President's Day: May 31, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a series of private meetings today.

He also received a courtesy call from Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari. President Aquino received Foreign Minister Zebari at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Also in attendance were Iraq Ambassador to the Philippines Wadee Batti Hanna Al-Batti, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto F. del Rosario, and Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Baldoz. Minister Zebari was in the country for a three-day official visit from May 31 to June 2 upon the invitation of Secretary del Rosario, which was extended during the latter's visit to Iraq last January 29.

The President's Day: June 1, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Villamor Airbase in Pasay City for a visit to Iloilo.

Upon arrival in Cabanatuan, the President was directed to the Eon Centennial Resort Hotel and Convention Center for the 1st Philippine International River Summit.

During the program, President Aquino was presented with the Summit Report containing a request of declaring March 22 of every year as the Philippine River Day. The event coincides with the observance of the World Water Day.

Following the presentation of the report, President Aquino led the launching of stage II of the Jalaur River Project, an irrigation endeavor and the largest Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund–supported worldwide.

The venture is geared to aid farmers by boosting food production and setting a benchmark for efficiency of harvest in the country.

After the ceremonial switch-on, the President delivered a speech talking about his job of efficiently apportioning the country's resources.

He discussed the government's efforts in safeguarding the country's water resource through abolishing redundant water-related agencies and creating an Inter-Agency Committee on the Water Sector.

"Apart from improving our efficiency in protecting and managing our water resources, we also have our National Greening Program, which will have allowed us to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of land by the time I step down," President Aquino said.

He called on everyone and stressed that unity would be key in achieving the nation's goal.

After the summit, the President proceeded to the Iloilo City Hall for its inauguration.

Before unveiling the City Hall marker, President Aquino was briefed with the city projects presented on a billboard in the area. The city projects include a community college building, river esplanade, and a reproductive health center among others.

Following the briefing, the President presided over the unveiling of the Iloilo City Hall marker and led the awarding of PhilHealth Cards and Certificates of Lot Award to the respective beneficiaries.

The President then proceeded to Treñas Boulevard to inspect a portion of the Iloilo River Esplanade before heading back to Manila for a series of interviews in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: June 2, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: June 3, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: June 4, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from U.S. Army General Martin Dempsey. He received General Dempsey at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace. The general was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Harry Thomas Jr.

General Dempsey is the 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also serves as adviser to the U.S. President, Secretary of Defense, and National Security Council.

Come the afternoon, President Aquino went to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II, from where he will fly to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an official visit. He would be in the UK from June 4 to 6.

President Aquino said the visit would strengthen political and economic relations with the UK, President Aquino said in his **statement** before departure. He said he would be meeting Prime Minister David Cameron, as well as leading British and European investors.

“Sasaksihan po natin ang paglalagda sa ilang business deals na pinagkasunduan natin katuwang ang Shell, Gaz Asia, Aboitiz, Rolls Royce, at Cebu Pacific,” said the President.

According to President Aquino, these deals would aid in boosting services in the fields of information technology, energy, electronics, and public-private partnership programs.

“At tulad po ng bawat pagbiyahe natin sa labas ng bansa, hindi natin palalampasin ang pagkakataong kumustahin ang mga kababayan natin sa United Kingdom,” said the President.

The UK is one of the top European investors in the country. It is also the Philippines' leading tourism market from Europe.

The UK has also been helping in improving the Philippine National Police's capabilities and as well as aiding with the peace talks in Mindanao.

President Aquino departed via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001. He is set to land at the Heathrow Airport in UK.

This will be his first trip to the UK as President of the Philippines.

The President's Day: June 5, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III touched down at the Heathrow Airport in London at around 9:00 p.m. (early morning, Manila time).

Upon arrival, the President was received by the Baroness in-waiting to Her Majesty the Queen, Lady Rawlings; Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Nicolas Jarrold; and Ambassador of the UK to the Philippines, Stephen Lillie.

President Aquino was escorted to the Intercontinental London Park Lane Hotel where he would be billeted for the duration of his working visit.

The next day at 10:00 a.m. (late this afternoon, Manila time), President Aquino presided over a series of meetings with top British investors at the Mezzanine of the Intercontinental London Park Lane Hotel.

The President witnessed the signing of agreements between Rolls-Royce and Cebu Pacific Air, Inc., and between Asea Gaz Asia Ltd. and Aboitiz Equity Ventures Gas. He also met with the officials of Glencore International.

Cebu Pacific and Rolls-Royce entered a \$280-million contract that would service the operations of Cebu Pacific, an airline company offering domestic and international flights. Its CEO, Lance Gokongwei, was the signatory of the agreement with Rolls-Royce, a leading power systems and services provider for “use on land, at sea and in the air.” *[Ref.]*

Asea Gaz and Aboitiz, on the other hand, entered a \$150-million agreement to develop plants that would create sustainable and renewable fuel from organic waste.

Furthermore, Glencore International plans to invest \$500 to \$600 million to support their operations through improving its smelting capacity and building a power plant, said Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang. The investment would generate at least 700 job opportunities in the Philippines.

Following the business meetings, the President visited a few London tourist attractions. He went to the Imperial War Museum of London where he viewed the United Kingdom's wartime memorabilia.

President Aquino then proceeded to the St. Pancras International, to inspect the train station.

St. Pancras International a Victorian-era building that hosts modern high-speed trains. The facility also offers events rooms, and a number of retail of shops. It stands as one of London's most popular destinations.

(At this point, it is June 6 in Manila.)

After his visit to St. Pancras, the President headed back to the hotel where he participated in a photo shoot for the Tourism department's “It's more fun in the Philippines” campaign in London.

The President and his official delegation posed in front of an iconic London double-decker fettered with the “More Fun” campaign logo and colors.

Cabinet secretaries present during the photo shoot include Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang, Secretary of Energy Rene Almendras, Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, and Chief of Presidential Protocol and Presidential Adviser on Foreign Affairs Miguel A. Perez-Rubio.

Following the photoshoot, President Aquino met with the Filipino community in London. He talked to them about issues and the administration's achievements in the country.

“Lahat ho kaming public employees should remember that there is actually one boss. The mandate comes from the people, the power comes from people, and the people are the only masters that we should serve collectively. Hindi some of the people most of the time, pero all of the people all of the time. At ‘yon ang pinababalik natin,” said President Aquino.

The President's Day: June 6, 2012

Today marked the last day of President Benigno S. Aquino III's official working visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This morning (afternoon in Manila), after a private breakfast, he was interviewed by Ms. Mishal Husain of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The interview will be aired on the BBC's news program, Impact Asia.

President Aquino attended a number of business meetings today. At around 10:00 a.m., he witnessed the signing of agreements between the Department of Energy, represented by Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, and Royal Dutch Shell, represented by Shell Philippines Country Manager Edgar Chua. Shell, according to Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, plans to invest over \$1 billion dollars in the country. The agreements were signed in the Intercontinental London Park Lane Hotel. Later in the afternoon, he met with executives of Nestlé, who expressed interest in expanding their business in the Philippines.

The President also met with top officials of the British government. At around 11:00 a.m. he went to 10 Downing St. to meet British Prime Minister David Cameron. At 10 Downing, both chiefs reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cultural, political, and economic cooperation.

With the President Aquino were Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang, Secretary of Energy Jose Rene Almendras, Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez Jr., and Ambassador of the Philippines to the UK Enrique Manalo.

President Aquino and Prime Minister released a joint statement, which you may read [here](#).

At noon the President and his Cabinet went to Lancaster House for a luncheon hosted by Her Majesty's Government, represented by Alderman David Wootton, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, and by Jeremy Browne, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Later in the day, the President met with His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, at Buckingham Palace. He extended his regards to the Queen, who celebrated her Diamond Jubilee just last Saturday.

Come early evening, President Aquino went to Heathrow Airport, where he boarded Flight PR001 bound for Washington D.C., thus ending his official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and beginning his official working visit to the United States of America.

The President's Day: June 7, 2012

Straight after his three-day official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed today for the U.S via Philippine Airlines flight PR001.

Read the statement of the government of UK following the meeting at 10 Downing Street [here](#).

The President touched down at the Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland at around 8:30 p.m. U.S. eastern time. He was received by U.S. Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall, and Ambassador of the Philippines to the U.S. Jose Cuisia Jr.

President Aquino was also warmly welcomed by the Filipino-Americans who were eagerly awaiting his arrival at the airbase.

He was then escorted to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where he would be housed for the duration of his official working visit.

In his **statement** delivered at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal II before departing for his working visits, the President said the trip to the U.S. is geared to strengthen more the economic and political ties between the Philippines and U.S.

“Makikipag-usap din po tayo sa kanilang mga negosyante upang ipahayag sa kanila ang ating paninindigan: ang maayos na pamamahala ay nagbubunga ng maayos na ekonomiya, at makikita po ito sa kaliwa’t kanang mabubuting balitang dumarating sa Pilipinas ngayon,” said President Aquino.

At around 10 a.m. U.S. time (10 p.m. Manila time), the President started to attend meetings with U.S.-based companies at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. He met with officials of Sithe Global, Denham Capital, and GN Power Ltd. Co., and CEO Keith Williams and Vice President of Global Government Affairs Anne Weeks of the Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

Following his meetings, President Aquino was interviewed by the Wall Street Journal led by Executive Washington Editor Gerald Seib.

The President's Day: June 8, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a coffee reception hosted by the leaders of the Senate committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations at the Capitol Hill. During the occasion, the President was able to dialogue with U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye, John McCain, John Kerry, and Richard Lugar.

After the event, President Aquino attended the launch of the U.S.–Philippines Society at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

During the event, the President, assisted by Ambassador of the Philippines to the U.S. Jose Cuisia Jr., conferred the Order of Lakandula to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar for his contributions to the country. Senator Lugar has aided in the Philippines' endeavors in the peace process and upgrading its defense capabilities through Senate Resolution 481, which includes support in the modernization of the Philippine military.

President Aquino also delivered a speech sharing the efforts of the Filipino people in restoring democracy and order in the country.

“In less than two years, we have emerged from a dark decade with a winning attitude and a truly cooperative approach to problem solving,” said the President.

According to President Aquino, international analysts have begun praising the Philippines' performance in the economic field. The Philippine economy grew by 6.4 percent in the first quarter of 2012 and is expected to continue improving in the succeeding quarters.

“This is the highest growth rate in ASEAN for that period, and the second highest in all of Asia,” said the President.

At the end of his speech President Aquino urged his audience to join the efforts in bringing glory back to the Philippines.

The President's Day: June 9, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III was offered a luncheon at the U.S. Department of State. The luncheon was hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The President was able to dialogue with Secretary Clinton during the event. Moreover, an agreement was signed between Secretary Clinton and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. The agreement would foster cooperation on the field of science and technology as well as increase aid in military training in the country.

Following the luncheon, President Aquino met with U.S. President Barrack Obama at the Oval Office. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the peace and security of the region as well as their commitment in strengthening bilateral relationship and in the achievement of economic goals.

In a **statement**, Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang said President Obama lauded President Aquino for his endeavors in fighting corruption and upholding good goernance.

At around 3:30 p.m., the President proceeded to the Andrews Air Force base where he boarded Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR001 bound for Los Angeles.

In Los Angeles, President Aquino met with apl.de.ap of the music group, The Black Eyed Peas and American Idol Season 11 runner-up Jessica Sanchez in a courtesy call at the Hilton Hotel.

Afterward, the President met with the Filipino community where he was able to extend his gratitude for the support the community has endowed to the country. President Aquino also thanked them for bringing honor to the Filipino.

After his meeting with the Filipino community, the President boarded PAL flight PR001 back to the Philippines.

The President's Day: June 10, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II early today from his official working visit to the UK and U.S.

Upon arrival, the President delivered a **statement**. He reported, among other things, that the trip generated around P100-billion worth of investments.

“Trabaho po ang katumbas ng mga numerong ito; trabahong magdadala ng pagkain sa mesa ng Pilipino. At kasabay po ng magandang balitang ekonomiko, nagbunga rin ng mas malalim pang pakikipagkaibigan ang ating pagbiyahe sa United Kingdom at sa Estados Unidos,” said President Aquino.

During the trip, he met with the top officials of the UK and U.S. They discussed the Philippine government's fight against corruption and formulation of economic reforms, which has regained the confidence of the international community. The President said he told them about the improving situation in the Philippines and thanked them for aiding in the development of the country's economy.

“Anim at kalahating araw po tayong nalayo sa inang bayan; 42 hours po dito ay ginugol namin sa loob ng eroplano. Nakita po ninyo: hindi natin sinayang ang pagbiyahe, at talagang isinagad po natin ang buong pagkakataon upang isulong ang ating bayan sa landas ng kasaganahan at pang-malawakang kaunlaran,” said president Aquino.

The President's Day: June 11, 2012

The President spent his first day after arriving from his working visits to the UK and the U.S. in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: June 12, 2012

Today is the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence,{{1}} declared a holiday by virtue of Proclamation No. 295, s. 2012.

President Benigno S. Aquino III graced two events to commemorate Independence day: commemorative ceremonies held in Barasoain Church Malolos, Bulacan,{{2}} and the Independence Day Vin d'honneur held in Malacañan Palace.{{3}}

President Aquino travelled to Malolos via aircraft early morning to lead the ceremonial rites. He was accorded full military honors upon his arrival. There he led a flag raising ceremony and laid a wreath at the Emilio Aguinaldo monument. Simultaneous ceremonies were held at the Rizal Monument in Manila, the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Cavite, and the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan.

The President then delivered an address.

President Aquino talked about the recently concluded impeachment trial of former Chief Justice Renato Corona. He said the process shed light on the process of democratic institutions in the country:

“Muli rin nitong idiniin sa ating mga lingkod-bayan na ang kapangyarihang ipinahiram sa kanila ni Juan dela Cruz ay may kaakibat na responsibilidad at pananagutan,” said President Aquino. “Naging pundido ang parola ng demokrasya dahil walang nagkukusang alagaan at panatilihin ang alab nito.”

“Ngayon pong nakabuwelo na ang ating bayan sa tuwid na landas, hindi natin hahayaan pang maligaw tayo sa dilim ng nakaraan,” he said.

For more Photos of this event, please [click here](#).

After the program, President Aquino headed back to Malacañan Palace for the Independence Day Vin d'honneur.

At the Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall, local officials, foreign diplomats, and members of the church gathered. The President delivered brief remarks, in which he said that, with the changing times, the prosperity of a nation lies solely on cooperation.

“To the future of the Republic of the Philippines—may our combined efforts help us bring our country to even greater heights,” he said.

[[1]] The Official Gazette published an interactive timeline of the Philippine revolution, from 1872 to 1907. To access it, click [here](#).[[1]]

[[2]] Last year, the President held Independence day celebrations in Kawit Cavite. This year, which is the anniversary of the present constitution of the Philippines, the President held the ceremonies in Barasoain, where the Malolos Constitution was drafted. For more in this, read “[Unraveling the revolution](#),” from pcdspo.gov.ph. [[2]]

The President's Day: June 13, 2012

This evening, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.'s (FFCCCII) joint celebration of the 114th Philippine Independence Day, the 37th anniversary of Philippine-China diplomatic relations, and the 11th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

In ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel, President Aquino delivered an **address** thanking the FFCCCII for their contributions to nation building, which includes a donation of P20 million to the victims of Tropical Storm Sendong, and projects such as the *Buy Pinoy* **campaign** and dental and medical missions.

“We must continue this partnership. After all, while we do enjoy the success we’ve worked for, we are still confronted by a number of challenges. We need to stand together as we look towards the future,” said the President.

Furthermore, President Aquino witnessed the turnover of a scale model of one of the resettlement units the FFCCCII donated to Sendong Victims, and a P2 million-check donation to help in the funding of the PNP Foundation Inc.

Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Soliman represented the government in receiving the scale model from the FFCCCII.

The President's Day: June 14, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from the CEO of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., Tadashi Yanai. The President received Mr. Tadashi Yanai at Malacañan Palace's Music Room.

Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. is a holding company of UNIQLO, which is a retailer and mainstay operation spanning product design, manufacture, and distribution. UNIQLO has branches in the UK, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, the U.S., France, Singapore, Russia, Taiwan, and Malaysia. It will be opening a branch in the Philippines at the SM Mall of Asia on Friday, June 15.

In the afternoon, President Aquino presided over a meeting with farmer organizations at Heroes Hall. The President and the leaders of the farmers groups engaged in dialogue on agrarian reform concerns.

In a press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the President Aquino has approved mechanisms that would help attain the goal of consummating the objectives of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension Reforms (CARPER).

He said the President has instructed concerned agencies to facilitate the distribution of land to the legitimate farmer beneficiaries.

Afterward, President Aquino received courtesy calls from Myanmar Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Italian Minister of Defense Giampaolo Di Paola. The President also received a farewell call from Svend Waeber, Ambassador of Denmark to Malaysia and the Philippines.

The President's Day: June 15, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. He monitored and received updates on the movements and effects of Tropical Storm Butchoy (international name Guchol) throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: June 16, 2012

As Tropical Storm Butchoy (international name Guchol) grew to a typhoon, President Benigno S. Aquino III ordered a Coast Guard patrol vessel and a Bureau of Fisheries ship to evacuate the Bajo de Masinloc.

Inclement weather pushed the President to make the decision as safety of Filipinos braving the waters were at risk.

The President's Day: June 17, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. He monitored and received updates on the movements and Butchoy (international name Guchol) which has intensified to a typhoon.

Yesterday, the President ordered two Philippine vessels at the Bajo de Masinloc back to shore as inclement weather risked the safety of the Filipino seafarers.

The President's Day: June 18, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oaths of office of newly appointed government officials and the new officers of the National Press Club.

Below are the lists of officials who took their oaths:

Philippine Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China Sonia Cataumber-Brady; Associate Justices Ma. Luisa Padilla, Renato Francisco, and Joseph Lopez; Assistant Secretaries of Budget and Management Janet Abuel and Gil Montalbo; and Deputy Ombudsman Gerard Mosquera; Police Deputy Director Generals Emelito Sarmiento and Rommel Heredia; Police Directors Elpidio De Asis Jr., Samuel Diciano, Gil Meneses, Felipe Rojas Jr., and Arnulfo Perez; Police Chief Superintendents Roland Vicente, Diosdado Ramos, Fernando Idio, Ronilo Quebrar, Fidel Posadas, Percival Barba, Sonny Cunana, and Raul Petrasanta. [[*Ref.*](#)]

The new officers of the National Press Club are the following:

Benny Antiporda, President; Marlon Purificacion, Vice President; Louie Logarta, Secretary; Jerry Yap, Treasurer; Rolly Gonzalo, Auditor; Directors Mina Navarro, Alvin Murcia, Paul Gutierrez, Joel Sy Egco, Nats Taboy, William Depasupil, Ronniel De Guzman, Arlie Calalo, Ma. Kristina Maralit, and Leonel Abasola. [[*Ref.*](#)]

The rest of President Aquino's day was spent in meetings with his Cabinet secretaries and advisers.

The President's Day: June 19, 2012

Today is the 25th anniversary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The celebration was held within Malacañan Palace.

The opening ceremonies of the program commenced at the Heroes Hall. President Aquino was presented with the 100 millionth National Greening Program (NGP) seedling by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje.

The NGP is a government effort in attaining sustainable development. The program features the goal of planting 1.5 billion trees covering around 1.5 million hectares of land by 2016.

After the receipt of the NGP seedling, the President delivered a **speech** sharing the reforms entered into by the administration to hasten the process of rehabilitating the environment.

President Aquino reported that as of now, 89.6 million seedlings have been planted on about 128,600 hectares of land.

“Sa pakikibalikat ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno, ng pribadong sektor at ng mga kababayan nating mula sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng lipunan, kumpiyansa akong maisasakatuparan natin ang NGP,” said the President.

President Aquino also expressed the need to cater for the environment and set up measures to prevent natural calamities.

“Walang makapagsasabi kung gaano kalupit ang susunod na delubyo ng kalikasan, subalit may kakayahan tayong paghandaan at limitahan ang pinsalang hatid nito,” said the President.

“Panahon na para patunayang karapat-dapat tayo sa mga biyayang handog sa atin ng mundong ito. Tayo naman ngayon ang magtatangol sa ating mga likas na yaman,” he added.

After the opening ceremonies, President Aquino to the Palace grounds where he inspected the trash boats purchased by the DENR to collect garbage along Manila Bay and its tributaries.

The President also led the planting of the seedling presented to him during the opening ceremonies.

Afterward, President Aquino presided over private meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: June 20, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III departed from the Villamor Airbase this morning to deliver a keynote speech during the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) convention on local governance.

In ceremonies held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City, the President witnessed the awarding of the Seal of Good Housekeeping to the respective local government units (LGU) from 1st to 6th class municipalities. Aside from plaques recognition, the LGUs received P1 million as incentive from the Performance Challenge Fund.

The Seal of Good Housekeeping is a mechanism of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to push LGUs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and improving standards of living. It advocates transparency and the efficient apportioning of government services.

President Aquino then delivered his speech calling for a gathering of the departments and entities involved in the reforming of the ARMM.

According to the President, he received reports that many of the ARMM projects have not been started yet and the second quarter of 2012 is coming to a close.

“Mayroon ho kasi kaming usapan sa Gabinete: Use it or lose it. At, may deadline po ‘yan; June 30 ang tanda ko,” said President Aquino.

“Gusto ko pong matupad ang pinangako ko—tinuro po sa akin ng aking ama—’pag nagbitaw ka ng salita, kailangan panindigan mo ‘to, mahirap o madali,” he added. “Dahil ‘pag tayo nangako, maski sinong Pilipino dapat talagang itaga po nila sa bato, mangyayari po’ yan.”

The President gave his assurance that he would lead the reforms in the ARMM as the P8.59-billion fund for the Transition Investment Plan of the ARMM has been approved. Health, shelter, infrastructure, and electrification assistance funds would be catered to under the investment plan.

Following the program, President Aquino granted the media an ambush interview before proceeding back to Manila.

With the President during the ARMM local governance convention were Former Akbayan Representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Secretary of the Mindanao Development Authority Luwalhati Antonio, ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Secretary Joel Villanueva.

The President's Day: June 21, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers during the course of the day.

This evening, the President graced the 65th anniversary gala dinner of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philam Life) as a guest of honor.

In ceremonies held at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati City, President Aquino delivered a keynote address citing Philam Life's beginnings and history in helping the Filipino people.

The President thanked the institution for its social involvements through projects like contributing a number of classrooms to aid in addressing part of the education sectors' woes and P15 million for various corporate social responsibility projects.

"Ventures that seek to empower Filipinos will always have my admiration and, more importantly perhaps, support," said the President.

"Philam Life is at the top and one of the top insurance companies in the country. I don't see that changing anytime soon. May I ask only that you continue to do your work in the best way possible, so that, together, we can go from success to success in our shared goal of empowering the Filipino people," he added.

The President's Day: June 22, 2012 Friday morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III on a speedboat went around the Pasig and Marikina River to inspect the progress that were being made to address the National Capital Region's flooding woes.

The Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project involves widening and dredging operations as well as increasing the height of river walls. The endeavor is also part of a P13-billion flood control master plan designed to be finished around two to three years.

The President started his tour at the Bahay Pangarap in Manila and proceeded to ply the rivers until the Napindan Hydraulic Flood Control Structure.

In a press briefing, Secretary of Communications Ramon Carandang shared that President Aquino was pleased with the progress of the project after inspection.

After noon, the President received Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad in a farewell call at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace. He conferred the Order of Sikatuna to the Malaysian ambassador during the occasion.

Afterward, President Aquino presided over more meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: June 23, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: June 24, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: June 25, 2012

Monday morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to La Trinidad Benguet via aircraft to witness the oath taking of the new members of the Liberal Party-Cordillera Administrative Region (LP-CAR).

At the Benguet State University Gymnasium, the President witnessed the new LP recruits take their oaths administered by Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II.

After the oath taking, President Aquino delivered a speech highlighting the role of being an LP member. According to the President, the purpose of the event is to make sure that the LP platform remains strong and grounded on serving the people.

“Nandito tayo lahat ngayon para masiguradong talagang matatag po ang ating plataporma de gobyerno na maski mawala ho ako, mawala si Mar, mawala si Erin, wala na kaming lahat na nandito sa entablado, mayroon pa rin tunay na naglilingkod sa atin pong mga boss na hindi bukambibig lang,” he said.

“Kailangan namin kayo dito. Kailangan namingpara makasiguradong hindi panandali lang ‘to; hindi temporary. Gagawin po nating permanent ang pag-angat po ng Pilipino, ang direksyon po ng tunay na pagbabago,” President Aquino added.

The President granted the media an ambush interview following the program.

Afterward, President Aquino proceeded back to Manila to preside over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: June 26, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: June 27, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the International Conference on Public Administration and Governance hosted by the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The President delivered a speech discussing some of the administration's efforts in pursuing inclusive growth. According to President Aquino, the government is continuing to enroll more beneficiaries to the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program.

The CCT or the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is the government's initiative in fostering human development by providing cash grants to poor households to improve standards of living provided that beneficiaries send their children to school and, for mothers and infants, have medical check-ups.

"In two years, we have nearly quadrupled the program's budget, from ten billion pesos in 2010 to P39.4 billion this year—and may I add, we did this without raising our taxes," said President.

"We have raised the number of Filipinos registered in PhilHealth, from 74 percent in 2010, to 82 percent today," he added.

President Aquino also said that funds have been allotted and released to entities that need many reforms such as the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Furthermore, the President conveyed that the international community has recognized the government's efforts in closing the gap between the rich and the poor and eradicating corruption.

"Transparency International, for example, cited an improvement in government service and the cutting of red tape as the reasons behind our steadily improving rankings in their Corruption Perceptions Index," said President Aquino.

The President said the government would continue with its reforms and stressed unity as key in fast tracking the country's progress.

After the occasion, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers throughout the afternoon.

The President's Day: June 28, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the inauguration of the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Berth 6 at the Port of Manila.

Upon arrival, the President was received by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) Chairman Enrique Razon Jr.

During the ceremonies, President Aquino led the pouring of champagne on the berth's marker. With him at the event was Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II.

After meeting, the President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his advisers and Cabinet secretaries.

The President's Day: June 29, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III convened a Cabinet meeting at Malacañan Palace to discuss the proposed 2013 National Budget.

In a regular press briefing, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte conveyed that the proposed Budget stands at an estimated P2.006 trillion. She added the said amount is not final and is subject to observation in the meeting.

President Aquino would convene another Cabinet meeting on Thursday, July 5. The meeting would tackle matters on the Tourism sector.

The President's Day: June 30, 2012

Today is the second-year anniversary of President Benigno S. Aquino III's inaugural as President of the Philippines.

Visit our interactive timeline of the Philippine Presidents' inaugurals. The page features inaugural speeches and programs of each President from President Emilio Aguinaldo to President Aquino III.

The President's Day: July 1, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: July 2, 2012

Before gracing the joint launch of the Department of Health (DOH) Rotavirus vaccine and PhilHealth "Z" benefit package, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a farewell call from the Ambassador of Brazil to the Philippines Alcides Gastao Rostand Prates at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

The President conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Datu to the Brazilian Ambassador.

During the launch, President Aquino witnessed Secretary of Health Enrique Ona administer the vaccination of an infant beneficiary.

He also delivered a speech discussing the two matters launched on the said event.

According to the President, the government aims to provide free vaccination for the Rotavirus, identified as the most common cause of severe diarrhea among children below five years old.

The Department of Health (DOH) intends to reach vaccinate 700,000 infants the age of six- and 15-weeks old nationwide.

"We are doing all these because we want to be prepared for this recurring threat; because we want to diminish the danger that this condition poses to our children; and because we want to lessen the burden on our people who should not have to worry about their children dying from a highly treatable disease like diarrhea," said President Aquino.

The "Z" benefit package, on the other hand, extends the PhilHealth's coverage to illnesses that are classified as the most costly and severe (or "Z," according to PhilHealth's classification) like Breast Cancer, Leukemia, and Prostate Cancer.

"If I may emphasize: this is only the initial implementation of that program. Just as PhilHealth has dramatically expanded their coverage in only two years, so too will they expand the coverage of this program in the coming months," the President said.

After the launch, President Aquino granted Thomson Reuters an interview at the Palace President's Hall.

The President's Day: July 3, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a series of meetings with his advisers and Cabinet secretaries today.

He convened an Economic Cluster meeting at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace.

This evening, the President received Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain who was in the country for a four-day visit.

At the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, President Aquino hosted a banquet in honor of Her Majesty.

In his **toast**, the President highlighted the support given by Spain to the Philippines. According to President Aquino, bilateral trade with Spain amounted to \$329.6 million last year. He also extended his gratitude to the €1.4-million aid for the victims of Tropical Storm Sendong.

“Today, a new history is being made: of a partnership between two nations with shared democratic ideals; of friendship based not on nostalgia but a principled commitment to the positive strength that can be derived from divergent histories, but with a shared, and affectionate, cultural affinity,” said the President.

The President, furthermore, congratulated the Spanish National Football Team for its recent victory in the 2012 UEFA European Football Championships.

The President's Day: July 5, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III attended two events in Pasay City today.

The President first attended the 11th Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo and Conference of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) at the SMX Convention Center.

The 11th CSR Expo is a platform for member-companies to share and discuss their practices and initiatives in CSR.

President Aquino delivered a **speech** discussing inclusive growth and its effects on society.

According to the President: "If we succeed in empowering the Filipino consumer, they will also be more capable, in turn, of availing of your products and services."

"Many of us see, in traditional and social media, how your companies compete for attention and patronage by outspending each other in advertising and marketing. It would be nice to see a spending war in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility as well," he added.

Following the CSR Expo, President Aquino proceeded to the World Trade Center for the Makina-Saka 2012 (Agri-Machinery Roadshow), an occasion that brings together members of the agri sector as part of an initiative to achieve food staples self sufficiency.

There, he was presented by Secretary of Agriculture Porceso Alcala a copy of the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP), the government's endeavor in achieving sufficiency in major staples, increasing the productivity and incomes of small farmers and fisherfolk, empowering farming and fishing communities, and making the country's agricultural and fishery sector globally competitive.

In his **address**, the President lauded the Department of Agriculture (DA) for its efforts and success reviving the country's agriculture sector.

According to President Aquino, the country's rice importation has diminished by 65 percent.

"Kung papalarin at hindi tayo masyadong babayuhin ng mga bagyo, mukhang pagdating ng 2013, hindi lang po tayo self-sufficient: tayo na po mismo ang mag-eexport ng bigas," said the President.

The chief executive also bared that funding will continue to strengthen the agriculture sector and coordination with State Colleges and Universities would be bolstered to for further research and upgraded quality of crops.

"Nananalig ako [na] ang tagumpay ng Makina-Saka 2012 ay magiging isang dambuhalang hakbang tungo sa mas moderno, mas kapaki-pakinabang, at mas matatag na sektor ng pagsasaka," President Aquino said.

Following the events in Pasay City, the President headed back to Malacañan Palace and convened a Cabinet meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President's Day: July 4, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III was paid a farewell call by Ambassador of Cuba to the Philippines Juan Carlos Arencibia. The President received the Cuban ambassador at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

This afternoon, President Aquino attended the Wallace Business Forum Roundtable Discussion at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City.

The Wallace Business Forum aims to help the Chief Executive become abreast with changes in the “political, economic, regulatory, and industry-specific environments.” The roundtable discussions serve as a venue for dialogue and assessment of matters discussed.

This evening, the President proceeded to the Manila Hotel for its centennial anniversary celebration.

The President's Day: July 7, 2012

Saturday morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III proceeded to Danao City in the province Cebu to witness the signing of the Liberal Party (LP)- Barug Alang sa Kauswagan ug Demokrasya (BAKUD) alliance.

The signing of the LP-BAKUD alliance was done between Cebu 5th District Representative Ramon Durano VI and Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, the LP President.

Danao Vice Mayor Ramon Durano III, celebrating his 64th birthday, took his oath as an LP member before the signing of alliance.

President Aquino also delivered his remarks discussing what it meant to be part of the LP. The President stressed that LP members are determined to create a progressive country through good governance. The signing of allegiance said the President was proof that more people are joining the mission of creating a better Philippines.

The President's Day: July 8, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: July 9, 2012

Today, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) celebrated its 21st anniversary.

President Benigno S. Aquino III graced the ceremonies held at Camp Crame Quezon City. He delivered a speech conveying that he is in contact with Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo in creating services to the staff of the BJMP.

“At ito pa nga po ang good news: naglaan na tayo ng 500 million pesos para sa pagpapatayo ng dalawanlibong housing units para sa mga kawani ng BJMP,” said the President.

“Sa darating naman pong Agosto, maaari nang makuha ng mga retiradong kawani ng BJMP ang kanilang pensyon sa mga ATM,” he added.

President Aquino also discussed ongoing reforms such as the National Inmates Monitoring System, a mechanism that computerizes jail records to make tracking of inmate files easier.

“Tunay nga pong mayroon na kayong gobyernong kumakalinga sa inyo. Ang pakiusap ko lang po: pangalagaan natin ang magagandang bunga ng ating reporma; iwaksi natin ang kaisipang wang-wang, at maging instrumento ng tunay na pagbabago,” said the President.

Following the event, President Aquino proceeded to Malacañan Palace to preside over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: July 10, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers throughout the course of the day.

This evening, Comedy King Dolphy Quizon passed away at the Makati Medical Center at the age of 83.

The President issued a **statement** on Dolphy's passing extending his condolences to the Quizon family.

"Dolphy was a good man who embodied the common Filipino: he loved deeply, knew the value of humor, respected his fellowmen, and was always ready to face any challenge life threw at him," he said.

"I, along with my family and the rest of our administration, join the Quizon family in mourning. The passing of Rodolfo Quizon Sr.—our King of Comedy—is a truly sorrowful moment for a nation that, for so long, found happiness in his work," President Aquino added.

Two years ago on November 8, 2010, the President conferred the Order of the Golden Heart upon Dolphy at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace. With the Comedy King was his partner, actress Zsa Zsa Padilla.

The Order of the Golden Heart, pursuant to **Executive Order No. 236 s. 2003**, is conferred upon Filipinos or foreign citizens "who have rendered distinguished services or given noteworthy monetary or other material aid, encouragement to the campaign for the amelioration and improvement of the moral, social, and economic conditions of the Filipino masses, and for volunteerism in the service of the Filipino masses."

The President's Day: July 11, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

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The President's Day: July 12, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings this morning.

This afternoon, the President graced the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Tapatán Roadshow on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The roadshow is an initiative of the DILG to promote disaster preparedness among local government units (LGU).

In his speech, President Aquino stressed that the roadshow was a measure for leaders to face the facts about its measures in preventing, mitigating, and responding to the effects of natural calamities.

“Dito po sa Tapatán magkaliwanagan tayo, may performance tayong inaasahan,” he said.

“May gagawin ang LGU, may gagawin ang ating mga Disaster Risk-Reduction Councils; mayroong obligasyon ang national government,” the President added.

President Aquino discussed some of the programs weaved by the national government in aiding LGUs in responding to mishaps. The President highlighted project NOAH, a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to put in place a responsive program for disaster prevention and mitigation, using advanced technology to enhance current geo-hazard vulnerability maps.

According to President Aquino, the national government is also in the process of installing 600 automated rain gauges and 400 water level measuring stations the country's 18 major river basins by the end of 2013.

Furthermore, the President shared that **Executive Order No. 66 s. 2012** was also crafted to provide guidelines on and delegating the task of suspending classes and work to local chief executives.

“Handa rin tayong kilalanin ang mga lokal na pamahalaang naging matagumpay sa paghahanda sa kanilang komunidad laban sa kalamidad,” he said.

“Ito po ang diwa ng Seal of Disaster Preparedness ng DILG. Sa pagbibigay-parangal sa mga huwarang LGUs, nabibigyang-lakas natin sila, at maging ang iba pang mga komunidad, na lalong magsumikap upang kumilos para sa kanilang kaligtasan,” President Aquino added.

The President, as he ended his speech, urged the officials present to stay on track with the administration's crusade in creating a better country.

Cabinet officials with President Aquino include Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Manuel Roxas II, Secretary of Science and Technology Mario Montejo, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Francis Tolentino.

Later in the afternoon, the President visited the wake of comedian Dolphy Quizon at the Heritage Park in Taguig City. President Aquino offered his prayers and extended his sympathies to the Comedy King's family.

The President's Day: July 13, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from the delegates of the 7th Consuls-General and Tourism Directors Tour at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The tour was organized through the efforts of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for participants to reacquaint themselves with the Philippines. The excursion would feature the country's top tourist sites and important cultural landmarks.

President Aquino delivered brief **remarks**; he shared the administration's budget allocation in improving roads and infrastructure to improve the country's economy and tourism sector.

"Our Department of Public Works and Highways has allocated 9.4 billion pesos in 2011 and 2012 to construct, rehabilitate, and improve roads leading to all of our tourist destinations," said the President.

"Our achievements in this sector are real and tangible. Just to give you an idea: in the first five months of 2012 alone, we welcomed over 1.8 million tourists. This number is more than half of the yearly average of three million arrivals in the years before we took office," he added.

President Aquino also shared that the government is working on a project that would connect North and South Luzon Expressways cutting travel time from Clark, Pampanga to Calamba, Laguna to only an hour and 15 minutes.

"There is a proposal also for a new nautical highway which will bring down travel time from Luzon to Mindanao using the nautical highway from the current three days to fifteen hours," he said.

The President also reported that the country expects to be rice sufficient by next year.

He added that in the Education sector, the dilemma of classroom shortage is being addressed. The number of teachers to be hired would be raised as well.

"As the tour takes you to different places, I hope that you take plenty of pictures, so you can share all that you see and experience," said President Aquino.

This afternoon, the President granted the ABS-CBN News Channel's (ANC) Inside Business an interview in the Palace.

Following the interview, President Aquino presided over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: July 14, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: July 15, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: July 16, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Admiral Samuel Locklear III, Commander of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Command at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. Admiral Locklear was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Harry Thomas Jr.

The rest of President Aquino's day was spent in meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: July 18, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received two courtesy calls this morning.

Paying him a visit were Foreign Minister of New Zealand Murray McCully and Foreign Minister of Canada John Baird.

The President accommodated both foreign ministers at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

This afternoon, President Aquino presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

The President's Day: July 19, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in preparation for the 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The President would be delivering the SONA on joint the session of Congress at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City on Monday, July 23, 2012.

The President's Day: July 20, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in preparation for the 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The President would be delivering the SONA on joint the session of Congress at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City on Monday, July 23, 2012.

The President's Day: July 21, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in preparation for the 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The President would be delivering the SONA on joint the session of Congress at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City on Monday, July 23, 2012.

The President's Day: July 22, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in preparation for the 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The President would be delivering the SONA on joint the session of Congress at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City tomorrow, July 23, 2012.

The President's Day: July 24, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: July 25, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today. His day was spent in meetings and working on state papers.

The President's Day: July 23, 2012

At around 4 p.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) where he reported the achievements of his administration and bared the government's future plans.

President's Month in Review: August 1-15, 2012

President's Month in Review: August 16-28, 2012

The President's Day: August 29, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received a farewell call from the Ambassador of Netherlands to the Philippines Robert Gerard Brinks at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

The President conferred the Order of Sikatuna to Ambassador Brinks for his efforts in strengthening bilateral relations between the Philippines and Netherlands.

The Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic value conferred upon an individual with valuable contributions in strengthening relations between their respective country and the Philippines. It is commonly conferred upon diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states. The Order is conferred upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the home office and in Foreign Service, as well.

The President's Day: August 30, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings throughout the course of the day.

He also received Smart Gilas Team Pilipinas led by Coach Chot Reyes in a courtesy call at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace. The Philippine team won 1st place at the Jones Cup, an annual basketball tournament in Taiwan. Smart Gilas won the championship over the bigger Americans. Point guard LA Tenorio earned the Most Valuable Player honors after leading the team in the finals.

At the courtesy call, President Aquino was presented with a Smart Gilas basketball jersey.

The President's Day: August 31, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers today.

In the afternoon, the President graced the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation's 2012 Presentation Ceremonies held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award** is given to individuals who have advocated human and society development in Asia. The distinction is given in six categories: government service; public service; community leadership; journalism, literature and creative communication arts; peace and international understanding; and emergent leadership.

The following are the 2012 Magsaysay awardees: Chen Shu-Jiu (Taiwan), Romulo Davide (Philippines), Kulandei Francis (India), Syeda Rizwana Hasan (Bangladesh), Yang Saing Koma (Cambodia), and Ambrosius Ruwindrijarto, (Indonesia).

In his **speech**, President Aquino remembered the late Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse M. Robredo, who was bestowed the Magsaysay Award in the year 2000, when he was between terms as Mayor of Naga City. Secretary Robredo died in a plane crash off the coast of Masbate en route to Naga City on August 18, 2012.

"Like Magsaysay, Jesse was unassuming, unpretentious, and very effective. He kept himself grounded. When he was Mayor, he joined in garbage collections, I'm told, at least once a month, and was the first man out after a storm, shoveling mud from the streets in his trusty tsinelas," said the President.

"And as Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, he made sure to come home to Naga every weekend, where he could go back to being a simple husband and father," he added.

President Aquino said that this year's awardees shared the same virtues as Secretary Robredo and President Magsaysay. Despite hardships, all have persevered in raising the unfortunate to their feet.

"As President of this country, let me tell you: we admire your work, and I am hopeful that you continue helping improve the world that we collectively live in," he said.

"As my people have assured me, so do I assure you: You are not alone. We are all allies in striving to live up to the example set by President Ramon Magsaysay, with his big heart, his honest mind, his sound instincts, his virtue of healthy impatience, and his abiding love for the common man," President Aquino said.

The President's Day: September 1, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: September 2, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: September 3, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 55th anniversary celebration of the Social Security System (SSS) at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS Building in Quezon City.

The SSS is the government's arm in ensuring the future of member-citizens by providing pensions, loans, and insurance.

President Aquino delivered a **speech** commending the SSS for its continuous improvement. According to the President, the institution has raised its net income by 11.8 percent in 2011. Its investment income increased by 7.1 percent as well. Moreover, because of its use of technology, the SSS increased the number of enrolled members and employers by 68 percent. They were also recognized by Computerworld Publishing, a global media firm in the U.S., for utilizing text messaging to further serve the public.

"Kung may Facebook page nga po ang SSS, hindi na ako magtataka kung libo-libong 'likes' ang makakalap ninyo mula sa taumbayan," said the President jokingly.

"Dahil sa pagpapakitang-gilas ng SSS, hindi na rin po ako nag-atubiling pirmahan ang 55th anniversary bonus para sa inyong mga kawani," he added.

President Aquino said the anniversary bonus worth P10, 000 was released on August 31, 2012 by Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad.

"Di man nito matutumbasan ang inyong mga pagsusumikap, ituring naman ninyo itong pasasalamat sa walang-sawa ninyong pag-agapay sa mamamayang Pilipino," the President said.

After noon, President Aquino received the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to the Philippines Hye Min Lee in a farewell call at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

The President conferred the Order of Sikatuna to the outgoing ambassador for his endeavors in bolstering the relationship between the Philippines and ROK.

The Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic value conferred upon an individual with valuable contributions in strengthening relations between their respective country and the Philippines. It is commonly conferred upon diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states. The Order is conferred upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the home office and in Foreign Service, as well. [Ref]

Afterward, President Aquino presided over meetings with his Cabinet secretaries.

The President's Day: September 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III convened a National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting at Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace, today.

Below are the 11 projects approved during the meeting [*Ref.*]:

1. P5-billion Funding for Flood Control Projects

Description: This will provide fund allocation for the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila and surrounding areas, to finance immediate high-impact flood control interventions in said areas. Activities in this project include the continuation of construction, rehabilitation of dikes, strengthening of seawalls, river dredging, and construction of river control works, among others.

Cost: P5 billion for 2012

Proponent: DPWH

(In addition, P1.6 billion was approved to fund pumps for Metro Manila, with the Metro Manila Development Authority as proponent. Another P270 million will be funded for dredging, with DPWH as proponent.)

2. Bridge Construction Acceleration Project for Calamity-Stricken Areas Phase II

Description: This involves the construction and replacement of 66 temporary bridges with steel structures across the country's 15 regions. This will be partially funded by the Government of Austria.

Cost: P6.12 billion

Proponent: DPWH

3. National Roads Bridge Placement Project (NRBRP)

Description: This involves the construction and replacement of 133 bridges across the country, utilizing pre-fabricated double lane modular steel bridges from the United Kingdom

Cost: P8.4 billion

Proponent: DPWH

4. Restructuring of the Bridge Construction and Replacement Project

Description: This particular project expands the existing project scope through additional works worth P1.78 billion. This brings the total project cost to P4.97 billion. This involves a supplementary loan of EUR21.25 million under the Spanish Export Credit facility from the Deutsche Bank S.A.E. In The implementation period of the project will be extended from January 2012 to December 2015

Cost: P4.97 billion, which includes additional P1.78 billion

Proponent: DPWH

5. Change in Scope, Increase in Cost and Implementation Extension for the Mindanao Roads Improvement Project (MRIP)

Description: The project's change in scope is due to the upgrading of the Cotabato City East Diversion Road from gravel to concrete cement, increase of total bridge length, among others. The change in scope is worth P1.71 billion, bringing the total project cost to P3.91 billion. Also, implementation period will be moved from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014. In terms of financing, the project is partly funded by the Saudi Fund for Development and DPWH's budget.

Cost: P3.91 billion, which includes additional P1.71 billion

Proponent: DPWH

6. Light Railway Transit (LRT) Line 2 East Extension Project

Description: This project involves the design and construction of a 4.19-kilometer extension from the existing Santolan Station to Masinag Junction (intersection of Marcos Highway and Sumulong Highway). Stations will be located at Emerald Drive, Cainta, Rizal (in front of Robinson's Place Metro East) and Masinag Junction, Antipolo City, Rizal. The total length of the LRT Line 2 will be around 16.75 kilometers upon completion of the extension.

Cost: P9.76 billion

Proponent: DOTC

7. Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 Capacity Expansion Project

Description: This project involves the acquisition of additional 52 Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) and the implementation of required ancillary works, to enable operating the MRT 3 system at a 4-car train configuration

Cost: P8.63 billion

Proponent: DOTC

8. Bicol International Airport Project

Description: This project involves construction of a new domestic airport facility of international standards in Daraga, Albay. The airport will replace the existing Legazpi Airport due to the latter's limitations and safety concerns.

Cost: P4.799 billion

Proponent: DOTC

9. New Bohol (Panglao) Airport Construction Project

Description: This project involves the development of a new domestic airport facility of international standards in Panglao Island, Bohol, to replace the existing airport in Tagbilaran due to its limited capacity for expansion and operational safety concerns. This will be partly financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Cost: P7.44 billion

Proponent: DOTC

10. PSALM's request for financing Agus VI Hydroelectric Powerplant Upgrading Project

Description: The NEDA Board approved the change of financing scheme of internally-generated funds of PSALM and on-lending by the national government.

Cost: No change of earlier approved cost worth P2.60 billion

Proponent: PSALM and NPC

11. Strengthening of Angat Dam and Dike Project

Description: This project includes the rehabilitation of the 44-year-old Angat Dam and embankment structures. The dam provides 97 percent of water requirements of Metro Manila and generates 246 megawatts of power.

Cost: P5.72 billion

The President's Day: September 5, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received three Ambassadors-designate at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Philippines George Ney de Souza Fernandes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India Amit Dasgupta, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Philippines Akinyemi Farounbi presented their credentials to President Aquino starting their tour of duty in the Philippines.

The President's Schedule: September 6, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisories.

The President took the afternoon to prepare for his trip to Russia for the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC) Summit. The Summit will be held on September 8 – 9, 2012. President Aquino will depart tomorrow afternoon.

The President's Day: September 7, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Vladivostok, Russia to attend the 2012 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, which will be held at Far Eastern Federal University in Russky Island.

In his **departure statement**, the President stressed the importance of cooperation among nations: “Pagkakataon din po ang pagpupulong na ito upang makipagdiyalogo sa mga bansang kalahok sa APEC, at higit pang patibayin ang ating ugnayan tungo sa kaunlaran,” he said.

“Makikilahok din tayo sa pagpupulong ng APEC Business Advisory Council kung saan tatalakayin ang kalakalan at pamumuhunan sa Asya-Pasipiko, at kung paano ito gagawing mas maaliwalas at kaayaaya,” President Aquino added.

President Aquino and his delegation departed for Russia via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001.

He arrived this evening at the Vladivostok “Knevichi” International Airport.

The President's Day: September 8, 2012

This morning, at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia, President Benigno S. Aquino III and the Philippine delegation held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, and another bilateral meeting with President of the Republic of Chile Sebastian Piñera.

This afternoon, the President participated in the 20th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, Retreat 1. The discussion tackled matters on trade and investment liberalization. President Aquino was also able to share the country's efforts in good governance and its role in sustaining growth and development.

Afterward, President Aquino engaged in a dialogue with the leaders of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) member economies. The leaders present were President of Russia Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Japan Yoshiniko Noda, Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key, and President Piñera.

Economic growth and development were addressed in the session. President Aquino expounded on recent developments in the Philippine Economy.

The day concluded with the President, accompanied by Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, discussing the day's events with the Philippine media in a meeting over coffee.

The President's Day: September 9, 2012

Today marked the conclusion of the 2012 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Vladivostok Russia.

At the Far Eastern Federal University, President Benigno S. Aquino III, along with the Philippine delegation, engaged in a bilateral meeting with President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang.

Afterward, the President attended Retreat 2 of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. Strengthening cooperation among member economies was talked about in the gathering to further fostering innovative growth among each nation.

Before the Summit's conclusion, President Aquino joined the leaders of the APEC member economies for the traditional Family Photo Session (see above). He also joined them for a working lunch, wherein economic developments were again discussed.

The President departed from Russia via Philippine Airlines flight PR001. He arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 at around 5:30 p.m.

President Aquino delivered an **arrival statement** announcing that the trip triumphantly conveyed that the Philippines is ready in strengthening bilateral relations more and advocating peace.

The President shared that matters on food security were tackled. According to him, reforms in ensuring food supply in the region were addressed, as well.

The bilateral meetings, President Aquino said, were successful as President of Chile Sebastian Piñera invited the Philippines to share its technology with regard geothermal power. "Bukod dito, nais din nilang magpapasok ng mga Pilipinong guro sa Chile, at higit pang patibayin ang ating ugnayan sa larangan ng aquaculture at pagmimina," the President added.

"Nagpaabot naman ng mainit na suporta ang mga pinuno ng mga bansang Singapore, Malaysia, at Vietnam ukol sa mga paksang may malawak na epekto't implikasyon sa ating rehiyon, partikular na sa usapin sa West Philippine Sea," said President Aquino. "Sa kabuuan, matagumpay nating naipabatid ang bagong mukha ng Pilipinas: mas bukas para sa negosyo't oportunidad, mas patas para sa mga handang mamuhunan, at mas maaliwalas na sentro ng komersyo't pangangalakal, hindi lamang sa Asya-Pasipiko, kundi sa buong mundo."

The President's Day: September 10, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers in Malacañan Palace throughout the day.

The President's Day: September 11, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III witnessed the signing of a tripartite memorandum of agreement between the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

In ceremonies held at Malacañan Palace's Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, and GSIS President Robert Vergara inked the agreement that will integrate DepEd personnel into the National Payroll System to avoid nonpayment of GSIS premiums and nonremittance of its perks.

Under the agreement, the DBM committed P6.9 billion to restore GSIS benefits of affected DepEd personnel. For its part, the GSIS will overlook the accumulated interest of P14 billion and grant a 5 percent discount on the principal.

According to Vergara: "Active members, whose eligibility for many of our assistance loans and eventually for their retirement, will have these benefits potentially increased. For those who have already retired, we will recalculate what they are entitled to and refund to them any amounts that were deducted, as well as update their pensions to reflect the higher amounts that they will be entitled to as a result of this payment." [*Ref.*]

This afternoon, the President went to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in Intramuros, Manila to attend the bureau's 72nd founding anniversary.

President Aquino delivered a speech, in which he stressed the importance of the agency's role in combatting transnational crimes. He urged them to enforce stricter immigration rules, as reputation and image of the country are at stake in their endeavors.

"Ginagawa po ng ating liderato ang lahat upang ipakita sa madla na nagbago na ang mukha ng ating pamamahala; kaya naman buo ang suporta natin sa inyong Development Plan hanggang 2016," said the President.

"Kabilang dito ang pagsusulong ng bagong Philippine Immigration Act upang higit na maprotektahan ang bansa mula sa trafficking in persons, transnational crimes, droga, at terorismo," he added.

The President's Day: September 12, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers.

This afternoon, the President proceeded to the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City to attend the IBM Think Forum, an occasion hosted by IBM Philippines in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

In his **speech**, President Aquino brushed on the challenges of the global the economy. He shared that every year, new trials surface and these are consequences of the world constantly changing.”

“This, ladies and gentlemen, is the challenge that faces modern leadership. When confronted with a glass that is half-empty, how do you convince people to see it as half-full?” said the President.

A perfect example of good leadership, according to President Aquino, was IBM, which braved every challenge and has grown to what it is now.

“Your leaders saw an opportunity to bet on the Philippines and to bet on the strengths of your company. Today, we can all agree: those bets have indeed paid off,” he said.

As IBM has laid its cards despite uncertainty, the President urged everyone to rally behind the Philippines as it pursues its campaign to prosperity.

“I believe that if we continue to support each other, we can do this in our respective fields, and, together, we can give rise to a country that not only rises to meet its potential, but exceeds it regularly,” he said.

Afterward, President Aquino headed to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to lead the awarding ceremonies of the Bayaning Likas (BaKas) Parangal.

The distinction is given to individuals/groups who have reached out to people during situations of disaster.

The President delivered an **address** lauding the awardees for the heroism showcased during the recent mishap (Habagat 2012) and the search and rescue operations for the late Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo and his two companions.

“Mula sa ating mga lingkod-bayang tumindig upang pamunuan at bigyang-lakas ang kanilang mga nasasakupan; sa ating mga kasundaluhang buong-loob na pumronta sa mga apektadong lugar upang pangunahan ang pagsasalba sa ating mga kababayan; hanggang sa mga nagboluntaryong Juan at Juana dela Cruz na nag-alay ng kanilang panahon at lakas para umalalay sa kanilang kapwa: para sa inyo po ang okasyong ito, at taos-puso po akong nagpapasalamat at tumatanaw ng utang ng loob sa inyong kabayanihan. Maraming, maraming salamat po,” he said.

He encouraged all to pursue such heroic acts for it is through these that a nation advances.

“Sa mga darating pang panahon, patuloy nating patunayan sa ating mga sarili at sa buong mundo: May mga bayaning Pilipino sa mga panahong ito. Likas ang pagiging bayani sa lahing kayumanggi; nananalaytay ito sa atin pong dugo,” said the President.

The President's Day: September 22, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: September 23, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Brunei Darussalam to attend the Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hazifah Sururul Bolkiah to Yang Mulia Pengiran Haji Muhammad Ruzaini at the Istana Nurul Iman Palace.

The Princess and her groom have exchanged their vows last Thursday. They were presented to the Royal Court today.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hazifah Sururul Bolkiah is the youngest daughter of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and Her Majesty Queen Saleha.

The President's Day: October 2, 2012

President Bengino S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisers throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: October 4, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III received the credentials of two ambassadors-designate today at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace.

He first welcomed Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Philippines Ton Boon von Ochssee followed Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Hyuk Lee.

The presentations marked the start of both ambassadors' tours of duty in the Philippines.

After, the courtesy calls, President Aquino proceeded to preside over meetings with his advisers.

The President's Day: October 6, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: October 7, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III went on air today to make an announcement to the public.

At the Palace Reception Hall, the President bared that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has nodded on a Framework Agreement with the national government.

“This agreement creates a new political entity, and it deserves a name that symbolizes and honors the struggles of our forebears in Mindanao, and celebrates the history and character of that part of our nation. That name will be Bangsamoro,” said President Aquino.

He expressed his delight saying progress starts in the newfound unity.

“The Constitution and lawful processes shall govern the transition to the Bangsamoro, and this agreement will ensure that the Philippines remains one nation and one people, with all of our diverse cultures and narratives seeking the common goal,” said the President.

“Ang tagal pong naging imposibleng isipin ng mga ito. Pero napatunayan natin: Walang imposible sa mga handang magkaisa, makiambag sa mga solusyon, at kumilos tungo sa pagkakasundo. Sa wakas, naabot na natin ang kapayapaang pundasyon ng ating mga mithiin para sa Bangsamoro, para sa Mindanao, at para sa buong Pilipinas,” President Aquino added.

The President's Day: October 9, 2012

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed to Makati City to lead the awarding ceremonies and deliver a speech at the 2012 N-Peace Awards at the New World Hotel.

The Awards is organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and is supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to recognize women and their roles as leaders in building peace.

Among the N-Peace Role Models was Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles.

In his speech, President Aquino conveyed that he was honored to be part of the event.

He recalled the sacrifices and how his mother, the late President Corazon C. Aquino, handled herself when his father Ninoy was murdered.

"I believe that it is in her life—in the lives of women like my mother, Burma's Madam Aung San Suu Kyi, and our role models for peace that we find the strongest arguments for why women must participate, and perhaps even lead efforts in building peace," he said.

The President also shared an anecdote about Secretary Deles highlighting her resilience during a rally they both attended. According to the President, the soles of Secretary Deles' shoes fell off during the march. Yet, she continued bare-footed.

"And I am as certain of her dedication as I am of her discomfort now; Ging was never one to point towards her own sacrifices, knowing that so many others have done as much, and more in the name of the cause they believed in," said President Aquino.

"The awardees who are here today have already blazed a trail and shown us the course we must take, allowing us to innovate, so to speak, and find our own ways of becoming role models for peace," he added.

The President proceeded back to Malacañan Palace where he received a courtesy call from Deutsche Bank Management Board and the Group Executive Committee co-chairman Jurgen Fitschen. He received Fitschen at the Palace Music Room.

Afterward, President Aquino presided over meetings and headed to the Makati Shangri-La for the Business Processing Association of the Philippines' International Outsourcing Summit.

The President reiterated that the Filipino is the greatest asset of the country. He extended his gratitude to the sector for bringing jobs in the country and urged them to invest more as their companies have grown greatly in the country.

"The numbers tell the story, and if you don't mind, may I repeat them: 11 billion dollars in revenue in 2011, with 113,000 new jobs created. We are now the number one contact center industry in the world, having surpassed India in 2010, whose investments in our country we do welcome. And the momentum continues to build: In 2016, we expect your industry to make 25-billion dollars, while employing around 1.3-million Filipinos. And again, if I may repeat, if you want to change those numbers upwards, we will not object," said President Aquino.

He assured the key players in the BPO sector of the governments continuing support in training people and improving the country's business atmosphere.

The President's Day: October 10, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over meetings with his advisories throughout the course of the day.

The President's Day: October 14, 2012

resident Benigno S. Aquino III had no public events today.

The President's Day: October 15, 2012

Today, the **Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro**, a landmark in the peace process between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was signed during ceremonies held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Before the signing ceremonies, President Benigno S. Aquino III received Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, who was in the Philippines by invitation of the President to witness the signing of the Framework Agreement, as well as to engage in bilateral talks. Prime Minister Najib, accompanied by his wife, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor was accorded arrival honors. Malaysia served as host during the peace talks between GPH and the MILF.

After the arrival ceremonies, President Aquino ushered the Prime Minister in the Palace where he witnessed Prime Minister Najib sign the Palace guestbook. They proceeded to the Music Room for a brief meeting.

Following the meeting, The President received MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim and MILF Peace Panel Chair Mohagher Iqbal.

President Aquino was presented with a "Gong of Peace" by the MILF Chairman.

With the President was Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles and GPH Peace Panel Chair Marvic Leonen.

President Aquino proceeded to the Aguinaldo State Dining Room where he and his Cabinet engaged in bilateral talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister and his delegation.

A luncheon in honor of Prime Minister Najib followed at Kalayaan Hall.

At the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, after the luncheon, the President along with Prime Minister Najib, Secretary Deles, and MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, witnessed the signing of the Framework Agreement. MILF Peace Panel Chair Mohagher Iqbal, Malaysian Facilitator to the GPH-MILF Talks Dato' Tengku Abdul Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, and GPH Peace Panel Chair Leonen were signatories to the said agreement.

Prime Minister Najib, Secretary Deles, and MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim delivered their remarks in the event.

President Aquino delivered his **speech** last. He thanked the parties involved in making the peace talks a success. He shared his optimism and hopes for the agreement.

"This agreement not only marks a new chapter in our history; it now defines the very path we take as a people—one where opinions are heard and hope is shared; where understanding and consensus breed meaningful solutions for all stakeholders; one where every child is offered the opportunity to shape his own destiny," said the President.

President Aquino acknowledged the challenges that may arise from implementing the agreement. The President offered his commitment: "This year the government has committed 8.59 billion pesos for the Transition Investment Support Plan, on top of the 12.93 billion pesos already allocated through our budget. We are committed to giving the region its rightful share, not just now but each and every time, confident that it will redound to the benefit of all citizens, and will not just line the pockets of a very select few."

"People will be empowered; they will gain knowledge and marketable skills that will thrust the economy forward. From constant displacement, there will be now a stable employment. Children who have had to witness immeasurable suffering will now get to witness a harvest; sons and daughters who have had to sweep bullet casings

from their yards will now get to pick fruit; families who once cowered in fear of gunshots will now emerge from their homes to a bright new dawn of equity, justice, and peace,” said President Aquino.

After the signing, the President received courtesy calls from the officials of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) led by JICA Senior Vice President Hideaki Domichi and from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the Palace Music Room.

JICA is a corporation established with the purpose to contribute to the improvement of developing nations through promoting international cooperation.

The OIC is an organization that protects the interests of Muslims worldwide. It is the second largest intergovernmental group after the UN.

The President's Day: October 21, 2012

This evening, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Auckland, New Zealand—the first stop of his state visits to New Zealand and Australia.

In his departure statement, the President said the trip will further strengthen relations between New Zealand and Australia, especially with regard trade and business. He also said he was excited to spread word of the recently-signed Framework Agreement between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, of which Australia was a supporter.

President Aquino departed from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal II via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001. He is expected to land at around noon time (Auckland time).

The President's Day: October 22, 2012

President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived at the Auckland International Airport in New Zealand at around noon (7 a.m. Manila time).

His first engagement was a meeting with the Filipino community at the SkyCity Auckland Convention Center. The President told them about positive developments that are happening in the Philippines. He highlighted how the administration has addressed problems related to education, agriculture, and infrastructure.

He also gave them updates on the Philippine economy, particularly on the stock market and our GDP growth, which exceeded even our own forecasts.

He used these details to highlight the transformation that has been happening in our country and the need to sustain it. He then granted a short interview to Radio New Zealand, in which he reiterated the sea-change in our politics, economy, and society. He also spoke about the values, ideals, and aspirations that Filipinos share with New Zealanders, and the vast potential that can be achieved if both nations continue to work together for their mutual benefit.

President's Month in Review: November, 2012

The President's Day: December 7, 2012

Yesterday, it was announced that President Benigno S. Aquino III would be visiting areas hit by **typhoon Pablo**. In his **speech** during the awarding ceremonies of the 10th Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO), the President apologized for his tardiness: "Talagang ang isip natin ay nandoon siyempre sa Mindanao, lalo na 'yong number ng missing. Parang gusto mong magkatiyakang itong ating mga kababayan na missing ay sana mahanap. Sana mailigtas."

Today, at around 10 a.m., Secretary of Communications Ramon A. Carandang tweeted that President Aquino was en route to Davao Airport.

With the President were Secretary Carandang, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar A. Roxas II, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Joseph Emilio Abaya, Secretary of Energy Carlos Jericho Petilla, Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary of Health Enrique Ona, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon Paje, Secretary of the Mindanao Development Authority Luwalhati Antonio.

At around 11 a.m., President Aquino arrived in New Bataan, Compostela Valley. He addressed the crowd, briefly, stressing that the missing residents must be rescued or found. The President proceeded to distribute relief goods.

At around 12 noon, the President departed for Boston, Davao Oriental. He was accompanied by Secretaries Roxas, Soliman, Paje, and Undersecretary of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Benito Ramos.

At around 2:30 p.m., President Aquino's flight back to Davao Airport was delayed because of inclement weather and the need for refueling. The President will be briefed by the NDRRMC at the said airport upon his arrival.

At around 3:15 p.m., President Aquino arrived at Davao Airport, for the briefing of the NDRRMC.

At around 4 p.m., Secretary Carandang tweeted that the NDRRMC has estimated around 5.1 million people were affected by the mishap. According to the Communications secretary, President Aquino has tasked General Segovia to create a blueprint to improve search and rescue during calamities. The President also ordered the DILG to investigate why an evacuation was located in a flood prone area.

At around 5:30 p.m., Secretary Carandang relayed that President Aquino, as recommended by the NDRRMC, will sign a declaration of a state of calamity when he arrives from his trip.

In the evening, the President signed Proclamation No. 522, s. 2012 declaring a State of National Calamity.

President's Month in Review: December 8-21, 2012

President's Month in Review: December 22-30, 2012

President's Month in Review: February 1-10, 2013

The President's Day: February 11, 2013

The President had two public events today:

In the morning, the President led the launch of the the Sajahatra Bangsamoro Program. During the launch President Aquino gave a message which affirmed the commitment of the administration to lasting peace in the region.

After the launch, the President attended the Sports for Peace Ceremonial Kick-off, a football tournament aimed at promoting friendship and understanding between members of the MILF, MNLF, and AFP. The President also delivered a message to the attendees and participants of the event.

The President's Day: February 12, 2013

The President attended the Team PNoy proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda, Manila.

The President's Day: February 13, 2013

The President attended two events today.

Ms. Rizzini Alexis Gomez (Ms Tourism International 2012/2013) and Ms. Janine Tugonon (Ms Universe 2012 1st Runner Up) paid a courtesy call on the President in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. [View the photos.](#)

In the evening, the President attended and delivered a message at the inauguration of the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall and Unveiling of the Cory Aquino Democratic Space Marker in De La Salle University, Taft, Manila.

The President's Day: February 14, 2013

The President had two public events today:

In the morning, President Aquino visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna. [[Click here for photos.](#)]

In the afternoon, the President visited with the community of San Pablo Laguna, in San Pablo Elementary School. During the meeting the President delivered remarks. He also granted a media interview.

The President's Day: February 15, 2013

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III attended to state papers in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon he attended the the 38th anniversary celebrations of the Philippine Heart Center and the inauguration of the expanded Philippine Heart Center Operating Room Complex.

The President's Day: February 18, 2013

Today the President had three public events in Malacañan Palace:

In the afternoon the President received the Special Envoy of the Amir of Kuwait followed by Officials from the Mitsubishi Corporation in the Music room for their respective courtesy calls.

After the two courtesy calls, the President hosted a welcome reception for the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in Rizal Ceremonial Hall of Malacañan Palace.

President's Month in Review: March 1-10, 2013

President's Month in Review: April 1-10, 2013

President's Month in Review: May 1-10, 2013

President's Month in Review: June 1-10, 2013

President's Day: July 8, 2013

At 10:00 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over the 16th meeting of his Cabinet at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of Malacañan Palace, in which they discussed the budget for fiscal year 2014. In the meeting with the president are Vice President Jejomar Binay, Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Baldoz, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Roxas II, Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala, Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Almendras, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, and Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo.

President's Day: July 9, 2013

Meeting with Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Almendras and Chief of the Presidential Management Staff Julia Abad at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting with Secretary of Budget and Management at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting with the the Department of Interior and Local Government and Secretary Paquito Ochoa at 3:30 p.m.

President's Day: July 10, 2013

At 1:30 p.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over the 2014 Budget Presentation at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of Malacañan Palace.

With the President in the meeting were Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson, Secretary of Presidential Communications Operations Office Herminio Coloma Jr., Secretary of Agrarian Reform Virgilio delos Reyes, Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Baldoz, Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala, Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras, Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson, Secretary of Education Armin Luistro, and Secretary of Health Enrique Ona.

President Aquino is set to submit the 2014 Budget Message to Congress and Senate on July 23, after his State of the Nation Address on the 22nd.

President's Day: July 11, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Aquino S. Aquino III received the participants of the 8th Ambassadors, Consuls General, and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace. With the President were Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia Jr., Philippine Ambassador to Canada Leslie Gatan, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Evan Garcia, and Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez.

In the speech delivered by President Aquino, he mentioned the “unprecedented boom in tourism,” which is partnered by government efforts to stamp out corruption.

The ACGTDT is an annual project of the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States and Canada which gives opportunity to participants to visit the Philippines.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa in the Private Office. This was followed by another meeting with Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad, Secretary of Transportation and Communications Jun Abaya, and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas at 2:30 p.m.

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President's Day: July 12, 2013

At 10:00 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III with Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio "Butch" Abad and Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima received East Asia and Pacific vice president Axel van Trotsenburg for his courtesy call on the president at the Reception Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Trotsenburg was accompanied by International Finance Corporation (IFC) resident representative Jesse Ang and IFC East Asia and the Pacific director Sergio Pimenta.

At 1:30 in the afternoon, the President had a meeting with Secretary of Public Works and Highways Rogelio Singson and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa in the Study Conference Room. This was followed by another meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Finance Cesar Purisima in the Private Office at 4:00 p.m.

President's Day: July 15, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino had a meeting with Head of the Presidential Management Staff Julia Abad and Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Almendras at 10:00 a.m. in the Private Office. At 1:00 p.m. in the Private Office, President Aquino had a meeting with Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas and Secretary of Transportation and Communications Joseph Emilio “Jun” Abaya. This was followed by another meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima, and Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio “Butch” Abad at 3:00 p.m. in the same venue.

At 7:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 67th anniversary of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association in Eastwood Richmonde Hotel, Quezon City, where he delivered aspeech.

In the speech, President Aquino mentioned how Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin, and Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon Paje—all members of UP Beta Sigma Fraternity—are diligently performing their duties. President Aquino also called out to the fraternity to continue their support to the government in nation building.

President's Day: July 16, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III had three in the Private Office.

At 10:00 a.m. he met with Head of the Presidential Management Staff, Secretary Julia Abad.

At 1:00 p.m., with representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment and Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

An hour and a half later, he met with the Department of Budget and Management and Department of Trade and Industry representatives.

President's Day: July 17, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff on the State of the Nation Address. President Aquino will deliver his State of the Nation Address on July 22, 2013. The State of the Nation Address is an annual event mandated by the 1987 Constitution. This event also marks the opening of Congress.

At 1:30 p.m., President Aquino had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., representatives from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance in the Private Office. This was followed another meeting at 3:00 p.m in the same venue with the Communications group.

President's Day: July 19, 2013

At 11:00 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff in the Private Office. The President then met with the representatives from Communications group at 1:00 p.m. in the same venue to discuss the State of the Nation Address on Monday, July 22, 2013. The State of the Nation Address is an annual event mandated by the 1987 Constitution, which also marks the opening of Congress.

President's Day: July 22, 2013

At 4:04 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) to the Congress of the Philippines in Batasang Pambansa. The SONA is a constitutional obligation of the President of the Philippines and it also marks the start of Congress sessions.

The President Aquino's 2013 ***SONA*** lasted for one hour and 45 minutes, received 91 applauses, and delivered in Filipino.

President's Day: July 23, 2013

At 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Private Office, Malacañan Palace. This was followed by another meeting in the same venue with representatives from the Department of Finance and the Executive Office at 2:00 p.m.

President's Day: July 24, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III started off his day with a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras at 10:00 a.m. in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace. At three in the afternoon, he also had a meeting with representatives from Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr in Study Conference Room, Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: July 25, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III had the following meetings in the Study Conference Room, Malacañan Palace:

At 10:00 a.m. with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras, and representatives from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of National Defense

At 1:00 p.m. with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., the Department of Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways, and National Economic and Development Authority

At 2:30 p.m. with Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa.

President's Day: July 26, 2013

At 3:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 24th National Annual Convention of the School for Reserve Commission and the AFP Officer Candidate School Alumni Association, Inc. (SRC/AFPOCSAAI) held at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City where he delivered a speech.

This year's convention theme was "Team OCS: Kaisa ng Sambayanan para sa Pagsusulong sa Tuwid na Daan."

The OCS has a total of 3,072 active alumni members in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Coast Guard.

In the event, President Aquino witnessed the presentation of the Plaque of Recognition by SRC/FPOCSSAI National Chapter president Lt. Col. Arnuldo Ferdinand Bajain, PA to the outstanding graduates.

President's Day: July 27, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III received His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, who is on an official visit to the Philippines. During the visit the two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and regional issues, and the advancement of the Strategic Partnership between the Philippines and Japan. Before luncheon, President Aquino delivered a statement for the press conference with Prime Minister Abe.

Japan is a strategic partner of the Philippines and the number one trading partner as well as the second major source of investors in the country.

The last time Prime Minister Abe visited the Philippines was in 2006, during his first term as head of the Japanese government.

The President's Day: July 29, 2013

In the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received the outgoing ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Tsuneo Tanaka for a farewell call. The Ambassador was conferred the Order of the Golden Heart rank of Grand Cross (Maringal na Krus). The ceremonies at the Music Room of the Malacañan Palace.

Per the Honors Code of the Philippines, the Order of the Golden Heart gives official recognition to Filipinos or foreign citizens who have rendered distinguished services or who have given noteworthy monetary or other material aid, encouragement to the campaign for the amelioration and improvement of the moral, social, and economic conditions of the Filipino masses, and for volunteerism in the service of the Filipino masses.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with the heads of the Department of Justice, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of National Defense at the President's Hall.

At 6:00 p.m., the President visited the opening of "Gift of Self" at the Manila Hotel. The exhibit featured almost 100 of President Corazon C. Aquino's paintings, many of them were given as gifts to relatives and friends.

The President's Day: July 30, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the following meetings in Malacañan Palace today:

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with the Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., he met with the heads of Department of Transportation and Communication and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., he met with the Executive Secretary and the heads of the Department of Finance, Department of Justice, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, also in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: August 1, 2012

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the grave of his parents, Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr. and President Corazon C. Aquino at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque. August 1, 2013, marks the fourth death anniversary of President Corazon C. Aquino, who led the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship. She died of colon cancer at the age of 76 four years ago. Earlier today, President Aquino held meetings with the Executive Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary at Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 2, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III conducted the following meetings in Malacañan Palace:

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with the head of the Presidential Management Staff and with the Cabinet Secretary.

At 1:00 p.m., he met with the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Finance.

At 3:00 p.m, he met with the heads of the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Transportation and Communication.

President's Day: August 5, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led the oath-taking ceremony at Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. The following took their oaths of office:

1. Undersecretary of Health Janette Garin
2. Assistant Secretary of Science and Technology Raymundo Liboro
3. Movie and Television Review Board member, Leah Navarro
4. Assistant Secretary of Education Tionisito Umali
5. President and Chief Executive of PhilHealth Alexander Padilla

Also with President Aquino in the event were Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, Secretary of Health Enrique Ona, and Assistant Secretary Susan Reyes.

At 3:00 p.m., President Aquino received Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines His Excellency Christopher Thornley for the Farewell Call and Conferment of the Order of Sikatuna at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

Ambassador Thornley was given the Order of Sikatuna rank of Grand Cross. The Order of Sikatuna is the national order of diplomatic merit of the Philippines. It is given to individuals who have diplomatic merit and have displayed exceptional service to the Philippines.

The President's Day: August 6, 2013

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the arrival ceremony for the BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PF16), the newest warship of the Philippine Navy, held at the Alava Pier, Subic Freeport Zone in Olongapo City, Zambales. The acquisition of BRP Alcaraz maintains the momentum of the AFP Modernization Program. Later today, the President held a meeting with members of the Security Cluster of his Cabinet held in the Private Office, Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: August 12, 2013

At 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the inauguration of the Brother Industry factory in Barangay Ulango, Tanauan City, Batangas. Brother Industries Philippines currently has 449 employees and is expected to reach 3,500 by 2015.

President Aquino delivered a speech in the event. With the president in the event were Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, Director-General of the Philippine Economic Zone Lilia de Lima, and Representative Nelson Collantes of the Third District of Batangas.

At 2:30 p.m., President Aquino confers the Order of Sikatuna with rank of Grand Cross (Datu Katangian Ginto) on outgoing Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Philippines Nguyen Vu Tu during the farewell call in the Music Room, Malacañan Palace. The Order of Sikatuna is given to foreigners with diplomatic merit and have done exceptional service to the Philippines.

President's Day: August 13, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 112th Police Service Anniversary at the PNP Multi-purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City, where he delivered a speech. With President Aquino were Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas and Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director General Alan Purisima. This year's anniversary theme was coined "Serbisyong Makatotohanan: Handog ng Pulisya sa Pamayanan."

In the event, President Aquino also presented the Plaque of Recognition for outstanding achievement in the field to NCRPO Regional Director Police Superintendent Marcelo Garbo Jr. Garbo pushed innovations in the Police Regional Office 7 by achieving 100% computer literacy of its 8,425 personnel.

At 7:00 p.m., President Aquino hosted a dinner in celebration of Eid'l Fitr in Malacañan Palace. The officials with the President Aquino in the event were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Secretary Ging Deles, and Secretary Mehol Sadain. Eid'l Fitr is celebrated by Muslims which marks the end of Ramadhan.

President's Day: August 21, 2013

Today marks the 30th death anniversary of Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr, better known as Ninoy, the President's father.

The late senator was shot dead on August 21, 1983, while disembarking his plane in Manila International Airport (now Ninoy Aquino International Airport). The assassination followed his three-year exile in the United States. President Benigno S. Aquino III released a message as part of his commemoration. In it he encouraged the Filipino people to "be reminded that individual choice can change the course of our history, and that each and every Filipino carries the potential to bring about lasting transformation in society."

However, the President spent most of the day out. The country, especially Luzon, had been experiencing heavy rains brought by the southwest monsoon, or habagat, which was intensified by tropical storm Maring since evening of August 18, 2013. Various cities and provinces were put under state of calamity.

At 11:00 a.m., President Aquino arrived in Biñan, Laguna, to lead distribution of relief goods and inspect the evacuation centers in the area.

The President then proceeded to San Pedro, Laguna, for another inspection and distribution of goods. At 1:00 p.m., President Aquino arrived at Mandaluyong Elementary School, which functions temporarily as an evacuation center.

President's Day: August 26, 2013

Today is National heroes Day.

At 8:00 a.m. this morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended commemoration ceremonies at Libingan ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, in Taguig. He offered a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, met with war veterans, and delivered a speech. With the President were Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Emmanuel T. Bautista and Mayor Laarni Lopez-Cayetano of Taguig City.

National Heroes Day is celebrated to honor the unnamed heroes who died defending the country. It was signed into law through Act No. 3827 on October 28, 1931.

President's Day: August 27, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the Ambassador of the Republic of Iran to the Philippines, Ahmed Hasan Al-Kamaly, presented his credentials to President Benigno S. Aquino III in a courtesy call held in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. With President Aquino receiving the Ambassador was Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario.

President's Day: August 28, 2013

At 10:00 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 8th East Asia Conference (EAC) on Competition Law and Policy, where he delivered a speech. It was held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila in Pasay City. The President was accompanied by Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima.

The EAC is a meeting of top-level officials of competing agencies in East Asia. It is a conference on in strengthening cooperation regarding the implementation of competition policy and laws across the region.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vHZaXY8rt0>[/youtube]

At 1:30 p.m., President Aquino headed back to Malacañan Palace, where he delivered remarks and led the presentation ceremonies of the Apolinario Mabini Awards. In attendance were Representative Maria Leonor Robredo of the Third District of Camarines Sur, and the 2013 Apolinario Mabini awards committee members, Marides Almendras and Zeny Tañada.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smk2Kb9EIKa>[/youtube]

The Apolinario Mabini Award was launched by the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Inc. in 1974. The award is given to individuals with disabilities, and to professionals and organizations, that have aided people with disabilities. The President spent the rest of the afternoon in meetings with Cabinet officials.

At 9:37 p.m., President Aquino received the surrender of wanted businesswoman Janet Napoles at Malacañan Palace. For details, read Secretary Edwin Lacierda's account of Napoles' surrender.

President's Day: August 29, 2013

At 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with representatives from the Social Security System (SSS) to discuss the reform agenda of the agency. The meeting was held in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

This was followed by another meeting with representatives from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in the President's Hall. At 4:30 p.m., President Aquino had a meeting with Secretary of Energy Jericho Petilla in his Private Office.

At 7:00 p.m., attended the Asia News Network (ANN) Assembly dinner hosted by the Philippine Daily Inquirer in the Inquirer Head Office, Makati City, where he delivered a speech. ANN is an organization of national news dailies published in Asian countries. The organization provides avenues of cooperation between its members for better news coverage in the region.

President's Day: August 30, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin received a courtesy call from U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. Secretary Gazmin and Secretary Hagel granted a media briefing afterward. Secretary Gazmin delivered remarks after Secretary Hagel. At 4:00 p.m., the President attended the turnover of command of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) held at Malacañan Park. The President honored outgoing PSG Group Commander Mateo U. Dizon and welcomed the new PSG Group Commander, Navy Captain Raul Ubando.

President's Day: September 4, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III convened the 18th meeting of the Cabinet. It started at 10:00 a.m. and was held at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: September 9, 2013

At 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Tony Fernandes, CEO of Air Asia, and the officers of Air Asia Philippines and Zest Airways. The meeting was held in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. Also in attendance were Air Asia Philippines Inc. Chairman Antonio Cojuangco and Air Asia Philippines President and Chief Executive Marianne Hontiveros. With the President was Secretary of Transportation and Communications Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya. This was followed by a Security Cluster meeting on an incident in Zamboanga City involving the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The meeting started at 11:45 a.m. and was held in the Presidential Situation Room.

President's Day: September 10, 2013 President Benigno S. Aquino III spoke at the 7th ASEAN Navy Chiefs Meeting (ANCM) at the Raffles and Fairmont Hotel in Makati.

“While the stories of cooperation between our peoples through the centuries already fill the pages of our history books,” he told the attendees, “I am hopeful that, together, through meetings such as this, we can extend those narratives and write even more chapters about how we have worked together to sustain a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN region.” [[Read his full speech by clicking here.](#)]

With the President were Naval Chief Chaplain Col. Tirso Dolina, Undersecretary of Defense Honorio Escueta, Philippine Navy Flag Officer-in-Command VADM Jose Luis Alano, and Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Macapagal.

President's Day: September 11, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials of the Department of Budget and Management and Department of National Defense in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

President Aquino then proceeded to the President's Hall at 1:30 p.m. for the meeting on the Proposed Plans and Estimate Budget for 5 PICC Projects for APEC 2015, which the country will be hosting.

This was followed by a 3:00 p.m. Executive Session with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa, Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad at the Presidential Study Room.

President's Day: September 13, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived in Zamboanga City to personally assess the situation on the ground. The city has been under siege by alleged Moro National Liberation Front members associated with Nur Misuari since September 9, 2013. With the President were Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas, and Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Soliman.

President Aquino was briefed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the city government crisis management command at the Western Mindanao Command. The President thereafter met with the troops.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awRu4419SyQ>[/youtube]

At around 12:40 p.m., the President met with members of the press for a briefing.

The President after the press conference visited wounded troops confined in the Camp Navarro General Hospital, which is within the camp premises. The President committed financial assistance for the families of wounded soldiers and of soldiers killed in the line of duty: 50,000 pesos for the wounded, and 250,000 pesos each for the families of the deceased.

For more details on the president's trip to Zamboanga City today,

The President's Day: September 23, 2013

President Benigno S. Aquino III held three meetings today in his Private office in Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with members of the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office of Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary. This was followed by another meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials the Department of Transportation and Communications at 2:00 p.m.

President's Day: September 24, 2013

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III held two meetings in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with the officials of the Presidential Management Staff. This was followed by another meeting at 3:00 p.m. with the Executive Secretary and officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

President's Day: September 25, 2013

At 1:00 p.m., President Aquino held a meeting on the revised draft of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines – Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Manggagawa – Pilipinas / Revolutionary Proletarian Army / Alex Boncayao Brigade Tabara-Paduano Group (GPH-RPM-P/RPA/ABB) closure agreement towards the disposition of arms and forces.

President's Day: September 26, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III started his trips to Norzagaray and Pulilan in Bulacan, and Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to pay his last respects to the soldiers who perished in the Zamboanga siege.

The fallen soldiers were 1st Lt. John Kristopher Rama, 2nd Lt. Florencio Mikael Meneses, and 1st Lt. Francis Damian.

At 6:30 p.m., the President received members and officials of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated (PMAAAI).

President's Day: September 27, 2013

Starting at 1:00 p.m., President Aquino had three briefings held in the President's Hall on the following:

- The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
- The 23rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits
- The upcoming visit of President Barrack Obama of the United States in October.

At 6:30 p.m., the President attended the launch of telecommunications company Globe's Southeast Asia – Japan Submarine Cable System at the Globe Tower in Taguig, where he delivered a speech.

President's Day: September 30, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Chief Legal Counsel Alfredo Benjamin Sabater Caguioa, and officials from the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace.

This was followed by a 1:00 p.m. meeting with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Legal Counsel, and officials from the Department of Labor and Employment.

President's Day: October 1, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Private Office, Malacañan Palace. At 1:00 p.m., the President had another meeting in the same venue on overseas Filipino worker Carlito Lana who is facing the death sentence for murder in Saudi Arabia.

This was followed by another meeting at 3:00 p.m. with the Executive Secretary, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of National Defense, and Department of Justice.

President's Day: October 2, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the Brotherhood of Christians Businessmen and Professionals' Grand Breakfast at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. In the event, the President delivered aspeech, which heralds the programmed reforms in the Bureau of Customs and how his administration combats the misuse of funds. At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials of the Department of Budget and Management in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace. This was followed by a 3:00 p.m. meeting on the rehabilitation plan for Zamboanga in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

President's Day: October 3, 2013

Today, the President had three meetings in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace. The meetings are the following:

- At 10:00 a.m., with officials from the Presidential Management Staff, Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Presidential Spokesperson, and Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras.
- At 1:00 p.m., with officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and Office of the Presidential Spokesperson
- At 3:00 p.m., with officials from the Department of Finance, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Budget and Management, and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

President's Day: October 4, 2013

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras, and officials from the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office and Office of the Presidential Spokesperson in the Private Office of Malacañan Palace. This was followed by a 3:00 p.m. meeting with the Speechwriters Group in the same venue.

President's Day: October 6, 2013

Today, President Aquino Departed for Bali to attend the the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

At 8:00 a.m., the President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 in Pasay City. Before boarding, he delivered his departure statement.

At 11:45 a.m., the President and his entourage arrived at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia.

At 2:00 p.m., the President attended the meeting with other ASEAN country leaders in Bali International Convention Center where he delivered his message: "Why Inclusive Growth Matters." APEC is a forum of world leaders from Asia-Pacific countries to promote economic growth.

President's Day: October 7, 2013

The President is in Bali, Indonesia, attending the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

At 9:00 a.m., the President attended the Plenary for the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue with Leaders. The dialogue provided the ABAC members the opportunity to discuss the ABAC 2013 priorities with the leaders.

This was followed by the Break-Out Sessions for the ABAC Dialogue with leaders at 9:45 a.m.

At 1:00 p.m., he attended the APEC Leaders' Luncheon.

At 2:30 p.m., the President attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) Retreat 1, themed, "APEC's Role in Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System in the Current Global Economic Situation." It was a discussion and exchange of views on APEC's efforts in attaining the Bogor Goals in support of the multilateral trading system.

At 5:15 p.m., the President was interviewed by Ms. Andini Effendi of Metro TV Indonesia. The interview granted by the President was requested by Metro TV during the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

The President granted another interview at 6:00 p.m., conducted by Ms. Aisha Speirs of Monocle Hong Kong. Monocle is a global affairs, business, culture, and design magazine based in London.

At 7:00 p.m., the President attended the APEC Leaders' Family Photo, and at 8:00 p.m., had dinner with the other leaders and watched the cultural performance.

Finally, at 10:15 p.m., the President had a coffee meeting with the Philippine media.

President's Day: October 8, 2013

The President began the day in Bali, Indonesia, attending the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN Summit. The following is a rundown of his activities:

At 9:00 a.m., the President attended the informal dialogue with the Pacific Island guest and APEC leaders to discuss sustainable development and connectivity with leaders from Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Marshall Islands.

At 10:00 a.m., he participated in the family photo session of APEC leaders.

This was followed shortly by the APEC Leaders' Meeting (AELM) Retreat II with the theme "APEC's Vision of Connectivity in the Evolving Regional and International Architecture." President Aquino was requested to discuss People-to-People Connectivity.

At 12:30 p.m., President Aquino attended the working lunch with fellow APEC leaders. The working lunch, with the theme "Sustainable Growth with Equity: Food, Water, and Energy Security," was an opportunity for the leaders to exchange views on ensuring sustainable growth. The discussion also involved sharing insights on how to bridge economic gaps in the region while preserving quality of life and the environment.

The President and his entourage headed to Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport at 1:40 p.m. to catch his flight to Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei Darussalam, where he will be attending the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

At 4:35 p.m., the President and his entourage arrived at Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam.

President's Day: October 11, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry in the Study Conference Room, Malacañan Palace. This was followed by a lunch meeting with Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas in the same venue.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguiao in the Private office of Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: October 14, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President received outgoing U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace, for the ambassador's farewell call. This was followed shortly by a briefing on the President's upcoming state visit to the Republic of Korea at 11:00 a.m., held at the President's Hall.

At 12:00 p.m., he had a lunch meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Orchid Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President received Raymond Benjamin, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), at the Music Room for a courtesy call. ICAO is a specialized United Nations organization that promotes international civil aviation safety and development.

At 4:00 p.m., the President received a courtesy call from Miss World 2013 Megan Young at the Reception Hall.

President's Day: October 16, 2013

Today President Benigno S. AquinoIII visited Bohol and Cebu, specifically, the areas in Central Visayas struck by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

He first arrived in Taglibiran, Bohol, at about 10:00 a.m. where he met with evacuees. The following video was taken at the Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex, Bohol, where the President led the distribution of relief goods.

The President arrived in Cebu in the afternoon, where he inspected the damage. At about 3:30 p.m., he visited the Sto. Nino Basilica, where he talked to the priests, and said a short prayer before leaving.

President's Day: October 17, 2013

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III headed for Seoul, Republic of Korea, for a state visit. President Aquino is the first leader to undertake a state visit to Korea since South Korean President Park Geun-hye took office in February this year.

Before departing from Manila, the President delivered a statement at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 in Pasay City. At 7:40 a.m. (Manila time), the President and his entourage departed for Seoul.

The President arrived at Seoul Air Base, Seongnam, Korea, at 12:20 p.m. (Seoul time) At 2:00 p.m., the President visited the Memorial Tower, Seoul National Cemetery. A wreath-laying ceremony was conducted to pay respects to the men and women who died in Korea's Wars. The Seoul National Cemetery in Dongjak-gu is Korea's only national cemetery, established in 1956 by President Syngman Rhee. It is where war veterans, patriots, presidents, generals and other fallen heroes during the Korean independence movement, Korean War, and Vietnam War are buried. Shortly after, at 2:30 p.m., the President attended an official welcoming ceremony by the Korean Government at the main entrance of the Blue House, official residence of the Korean president.

At 2:45 p.m., the President attended a summit meeting with President Park to discuss Philippine-Korean relations.

At 3:55 p.m., the President attended the signing of the Memorandums of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Defense and Sports Cooperation, and the Loan Agreement for the Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Low Lying Areas of Pampanga Bay Project. This was followed by a state dinner hosted by President Park in his honor at 6:30 p.m.

Finally at 9:00 p.m., the President had a coffee meeting with the Philippine media at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

President's Day: October 18, 2013

Today is the second day of the President's State Visit to the Republic of Korea.

At 9:30 a.m (Korean time)., the President attended the Wreath-Laying and Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation in Honor of the Late Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr. at the Hall of Heroes at the War Memorial of Korea. The event was to honor the late senator's role in the Korean War.

Shortly after, at 9:45 a.m., the President toured the War Memorial of Korea which included the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea memorabilia exhibit.

At 11:00 a.m., the he met with the four hosts of the Korean Business Community Luncheon where he delivered a speech. In the speech, the President highlighted the administration's thrust on good governance and sound economic management, invited Korean investors, and assure them that reforms will continue even after the administration's terms ends in 2016.

After lunch, the President had a series of meetings with high officials of Korean companies.

At 1:40 p.m., the President met with the Chairan of Hanjin Heavy Industries & Constructions Co. Ltd (HHIC). HHIC is a South Korean multinational shipbuilding company founded in 1937. HHIC established HHIC Philippines in 2006. The construction of its shipyard in Redondo Peninsula, Subic, commenced in May 2006 and was completed in April 2009.

At 2:05 p.m., he then met with the President and CEO of Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO). Established in 1898 as Hansung Electric Power Company, KEPCO is a publicly listed Korean government-controlled power company. KEPCO Philippines was established in 1995 when KEPCO won the bidding for the Rehabilitation, Operation, Maintenance and Management of the 650 MW Malaya Thermal Power Plant in Rizal.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with the President and CEO of Hotel Lotte Co. Ltd. The Lotte Group was established in 1967, and is one of the largest conglomerates in Korea with interests in food, hotels, entertainment, logistics, finance, and information technology, among others.

At 2:55 p.m., he had a meeting with the Vice Chairman and CEO of Hyundai Motor Group and Kia Motors Corporation. Both companies are engaged in the automobile, steel, construction, parts, and finance industries, among others.

This was followed by another meeting with the Chairman and CEO of the National Pension Service of Korea. NPS, which was established in 1988, manages mandatory, university, public pension scheme of Korea.

The President was interviewed by CNN-Korea correspondent Ms. Paula Hancocks at 4:25 p.m.

The President attended the gathering, at 6:00 p.m., with the Filipino community in Seoul where he delivered a speech. There are 87 Filipino organizations registered with the Philippine Embassy in ROK. These organizations are composed of members with shared interests, professions, place of origin, religious affiliation, or place of residence in Korea.

At 8:05 p.m., the President and members of the Philippine delegation attended the Farewell Ceremony at the Seoul Air Base in Seongnam.

The President departed for Manila via Philippine Airlines flight PR 001 at 8:10 p.m.

At 11:00 p.m., the President and the Philippine delegation arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 where he delivered his arrival statement.

President's Day: October 21, 2013

The President had a Security Cluster Meeting at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace at 10:00 a.m.

At 2:00 p.m., the President attended the 12th CEO Forum and the 114th General Membership Meeting of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (SEIPI) at Solaire Resort and Casino Manila in Parañaque City. The President delivered a speech in the event.

President's Day: October 21, 2013

This morning at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III held a meeting with the Cabinet's Security Cluster, held at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President attended the 12th CEO Forum and 114th General Membership Meeting of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (SEIPI), held at the Solaire Resort and Casino Manila in Parañaque City.

President's Day: October 22, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President received the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Philippines, Asif Anwar Ahmad, in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace, for the ambassador's presentation of credentials. This was followed by the presentation of credentials of the Ambassador of Mexico, Julio Camarena Villaseñor, to the Philippines in the same venue at 10:30 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting and photo opportunity with Luiza Carvalho in the Music Room. Carvalho was at Malacañan Palace to pay her courtesy call on the President. Carvalho is the resident coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme.

President's Day: October 23, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the annual Presidential Forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines in Manila Hotel. The President delivered a speech in the event. He also entertained questions from the attending media correspondents. He then attended briefly the Philippine Business Conference, also in Manila Hotel, where he delivered a short message. At 3:30 p.m., the President departed from Malacañang grounds to the quake-affected areas in Bohol. On October 15, 2013, a 7.2-magnitude quake shook Central Visayas. As of October 23, 2013 (6:00 a.m.), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported 195 dead, 651 injured, and 12 missing.

President's Day: October 25, 2013

Today, the President had two meetings in the Private Office of Malacañan Palace. The meetings were the following:

- With Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at 11:00 a.m.
- With officials from the Presidential Management Staff and Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras at 2:00 p.m.

President's Day: October 29, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office of Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with Telstra CEO David Thodey and Telstra Chief Financial Officer Andy Penn in the Music Room. Telstra is a telecommunications company based in Australia, which pegs increased investments in the Philippines.

At 1:30 p.m., the President attended the 2nd National Technical Vocational (Tech-Voc) Educational and Training Congress at SMX Convention Center, Pasay City, where he delivered a speech.

President's Day: November 4, 2013

This morning, the President attended the flag raising and awarding ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. In the ceremony, the President honored the soldiers who gallantly fought to rescue civilian hostages from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Misuari faction during the three-week standoff in Zamboanga City last September. [Read the President's speech during the ceremony](#). Shortly after, at 11:00 a.m., the President received Chairman Teruo Asada of the Marubeni Corporation during a courtesy call in Malacañan Palace. Marubeni Corporation conducts business investment, development, and management on a global level. At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Presidential Hall. This was followed by another meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: November 5, 2013

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Blue Room of Malacañan Palace.

This was followed by a presentation by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on their modernization program , which was given at the Palace's Study Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

Shortly after, at 3:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Governor Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, also in the same venue.

President's Day: November 6, 2013

The President had three meetings today in the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace. The meetings were the following:

- At 10:00 a.m. with representatives of the Bus Rapid Transit and officials of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Dual Airport System
- At 130 p.m. with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.
- At 2:30 p.m. with Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguiao and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government

President's Day: November 7, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting on the memorandum of understanding between the government of the Philippines and United States government on the restoration and operation and maintenance of Clark Cemetery in the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace.

The President then had a meeting with the officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the President's Hall.

This was followed by another meeting in the Study Conference Room with the officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Budget and Management and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at 2:00 p.m.

Shortly after, at 3:30 p.m., the he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, representatives from the Department of Justice, and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguiao in the same venue.

At 6:36 p.m., the President addressed the nation via telecast on the situation regarding typhoon Yolanda. Typhoon Yolanda entered the Philippine area of responsibility on November 7, 2013, and is expected to make land fall on November 8, 2013.

President's Day: November 8, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with the officials from the National Anti-Poverty Commission at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

After lunch at 1:00 p.m., he met with Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad in the Private Office of the Palace.

Shortly after at 3:00 p.m., he had another meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the same venue.

President's Day: November 9, 2013

At 6:45 p.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III briefed the media on the relief and rescue efforts of the government in the wake of typhoon Yolanda. He cited the presidential social fund and calamity fund as sources for rehabilitation and relief. There is around P16 billion in standby funds. He said he has not received reports of damaged bridges and roads; the Department of Public Works and Highways has been instead busy clearing the roads of debris. The distribution of relief goods, he said, as well as the restoration of power and communications are the government's top priority.

According to the President, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Manuel Mar Roxas were both in Tacloban, one of the hardest hit areas, to assess the situation. He assured the public that aside from himself, secretaries Roxas, Gazmin, Soliman (Department of Social Welfare and Development), and Petilla (Department of Energy) are on top of the situation.

President's Day: November 10, 2013

Today, the President, with secretaries Emilio Abaya and Rene Almendras, arrived in Tacloban City, Leyte. They were received by secretaries Mar Roxas, Voltaire Gazmin, Dinky Soliman, Rogelio Singson, and Jericho Petilla who arrived earlier. The President had a meeting at the Tactical Command Center, Tacloban City, with his cabinet secretaries and local government officials on the effects of typhoon Yolanda on the city and other parts of Visayas. In the same venue, the President headed the distribution of relief goods and then headed for Roxas City, Capiz.

Video of the ambush interview with the President in Tacloban:

At 3:53 p.m., the President and his cabinet members arrived in Roxas City. Upon arrival, the President headed straight to Barangay Culasi to do an inspection of the relief operations and lead the distribution of goods.

President's Day: November 20, 2013

Today, the President had three meetings in the Private Room of Malacañan Palace. The meetings were the following:

At 10:00 a.m., with officials from the Presidential Management Staff

At 11:00 a.m., with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio Abad

At 3:00 p.m., with Secretary Ochoa and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa.

President's Day: November 22, 2013 At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras and officials from the Committee on Privatization held in the President's Private Office of Malacañan Palace. This was followed by another meeting in the same venue with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs at 1:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., he had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, and Secretary Ochoa, held in the Blue Room.

President's Day: November 29, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Agriculture in the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace.

This was followed by a meeting with Task Force Yolanda Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, held in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room at 2:00 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa, and officials from the Department of Justice, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and Department of Trade and Industry at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: December 5, 2013

Today, President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar went to Malacañang Palace as part of his first state visit to the Philippines, upon the invitation of President Benigno S. Aquino III.

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received President Thein Sein with a welcoming ceremony at the Palace grounds. President Thein Sein was then ushered to the Reception Hall, where he signed the Palace guestbook.

At 10:35 a.m., the two leaders held expanded bilateral talks at the Aguinaldo State Room, which was followed by the signing of agreements and the issuance of press statements at 11:25 a.m. in the Reception Hall.

At 12:00 p.m., a state luncheon was held in honor of President Thein Sein in the President's Hall where President Aquino delivered a toast.

President's Day: December 12, 2013

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Tokyo, where he will participate in the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and other related meetings.

The President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay at 10:00 a.m. Before boarding, he delivered his departure statement to the members of his Cabinet and the Philippine media.

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuP99brw3ME>[/youtube]

At 2:00 p.m. (1:10 p.m. Manila time), the President arrived at Tokyo International Airport.

At 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. Manila time), the President met with the Filipino community in Japan at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, where he delivered a speech. As part of the event, the President also conferred the Presidential Medal of Merit on Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo, former Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

This was followed by a private dinner hosted by the Ishihara family at 7:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. Manila time).

President's Day: December 18, 2013

This morning, the President attended a briefing on the government's Reconstruction Assistance plan in the wake of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). The briefing was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs Building in Pasay City. The event was attended by the diplomatic corps and donors from the international community supporting the rehabilitation effort. The president delivered a speech. At 2:00 p.m. later this afternoon, the President attended the awarding of the Department of Health-wide ISO 9001:2008 Certification ceremony, held in Malacañan Palace. At 3:30 p.m., the President received boxing champion and Representative Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao of Saranggani.

President's Day: December 20, 2013

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the 78th Founding Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) held in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City where he delivered his speech. The AFP was established on December 21, 1935, when President Manuel L. Quezon signed Commonwealth Act No. 1 or the National Defense Act of 1935. At 1:00 p.m., the President arrived at the Private Office of Malacañan Palace to hold a meeting with officials from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

At 2:00 p.m., the President signed the 2014 National Budget at Rizal Hall in the Palace. He also delivered his speech on the Budget.

President's Day: December 22, 2013

Today, the President went to three shelter projects of the government in the Visayas and Mindanao.

At 10:00 a.m., the President had an inspection of the Core Shelter Housing Project in Compostela Valley. Compostela Valley was one of the hardest hit areas by typhoon Pablo in November 2012. The President also delivered a speech and had a briefing with his cabinet and local officials.

At 1:15 p.m., he arrived at Zamboanga City for his briefing on the Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction, where he also delivered his speech.

At 3:15 p.m., he then had a briefing and inspection of the bunkhouses in typhoon Yolanda-hit areas in Tacloban City, where he delivered a speech.

At 3:55 p.m., he headed the turn-over and inspection of the bunkhouses in Yolanda-hit areas in Leyte.

President's Day: January 7, 2014

This morning, grade 11 students from Miriam College High School (MCHS) paid a courtesy call on President Benigno S. Aquino III at Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace. Over the rest of the day, the President attended meetings held in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Finance.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Agriculture.

President's Day: January 8, 2014

This morning, President Aquino accepted the credentials of the eight new nonresident ambassadors-designate, namely: Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname Titi Amina Pardi, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Dibaba Abdetta, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana Jacob Dickie Nkate, Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic Joaquim Alberto de Sousa Moreira de Lemos, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan Khalid Abdelgadir Shukri, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia Miles Kaweche Banda, Ambassador of the Independent State of Samoa Leiatua Tuitolova'a Dr. Kilifoti Eteauati, and Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania Egidijus Meilunas. Following this, the President delivered a short message, in which he said that part of the agenda of good governance is "to foster beneficial and meaningful relations with nations of goodwill"; the President reaffirmed his belief that this is essential in building a country and an international community where no one is left behind.

Read President Aquino's remarks during the presentation of credentials of nonresident ambassadors-designate: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/01/08/president-aquinos-remarks-during-the-presentation-of-credentials-of-nonresident-ambassadors-designate-on-january-8-2014/>

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Finance, National Food Authority, and the National Irrigation Administration at the Study Conference Room.

At 4:00 p.m., the President delivered a speech at the launching of the new Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Signal System at the new Command and Control Center in Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City.

President's Day: January 9, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a meeting, involving select Cabinet members, on post-Yolanda rehabilitation at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace. At 2:00 p.m., the President received the credentials of Pakistani Ambassador-designate Safdar Hayat at the Music Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Emmanuel Bautista at the Private Office.

President's Day: January 10, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III hosted the annual New Year Vin d'Honneur in Malacañan Palace. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, members of the president's Cabinet, and members of Congress and the Judiciary. During the event, the President offered a toast:

“And to all our partners and friends from the world over: May we continue to strengthen the bonds that link us as one community, sharing a single world.”

President's Day: January 13, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with different officials in Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary (ES), Cabinet Secretary (CabSec), and officials from the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Energy, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation and Communication, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of National Defense (DND), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Presidential Assistant for Recovery and Rehabilitation (PARR), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), National Telecommunications Commission, and the Communications group at the President's Hall.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with ES, CabSec, officials from the Department of Finance (DOF), DILG, DBM, DND, NDRRMC, NEDA, and PARR at the Study Conference Room.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with officials from DOF, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Bureau of Customs at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: January 13, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with his cabinet secretaries at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Shortly after, at 1:00 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, and officials from the Department of Finance, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Department of National Defense, National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council, and Press Assistance for Rehabilitation in the Study Conference Room of the Palace.

In the same venue at 3:00 p.m., the President had another meeting with officials from the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Bureau of Customs.

President's Day: January 14, 2014

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the groundbreaking ceremony of the San Gabriel Power Plant First Gas Powerplant at Batangas City. At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: January 15, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the Good Governance Summit held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City where he delivered a speech. At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Agriculture, National Food Authority, and the National Irrigation Authority in the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: January 16, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the celebrations for the 63rd anniversary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. During the event, he delivered a speech where he lauded Ms. Noemi P. Mongaya and Mr. Danny Franco B. Bitara who survived a helicopter crash in Leyte during the relief efforts in areas affected by typhoon Yolanda. After the courtesy call, the President presided over several meetings in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: January 17, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with different officials at Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the office of the Cabinet Secretary.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met again with the office of the Cabinet Secretary and other officials.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and other staff from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel.

President's Day: January 20, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President led the oath-taking ceremonies of Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfred Caguioa and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Commander Vice Admiral Rodolfo Isorena at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfred Caguiao in the Study Conference Room of the Palace.

At 5:00 p.m., the President led an interfaith gathering called the National Day of Prayer, held at the Kalayaan Hall grounds. With the President were representatives from various faiths sharing their prayers at the event.

President's Day: January 20, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oath of office of new government officials at Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of Justice, and officials from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Study Conference Room.

At 5:00 p.m., the President led the nation in prayer from the Malacañan Palace Grounds.

President's Day: January 21, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Maringal na Lakan to Honorary Consul General in Aleppo, Idlin, Hana, and Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic Mohamad Wassim Nanaa in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. At 1:30 p.m., the President attended the 65th anniversary of the Insurance Commission where he is guest of honor. He also delivered a speech in the event. At 7:10, the President attended the People of the Year Awards Night 2014 at the Grand Ballroom, Raffles and Fairmont Makati in Makati City where he delivered a speech.

President's Day: January 22, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 project, which was held along Buendia, the end of Skyway Stage 1, in Makati City. The President delivered a speech during the event. At 2:00 p.m., the President received U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, who paid a courtesy call on the President, which was held in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Climate Change Commission, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras.

President's Day: January 24, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech during the courtesy call of the “Winter Escapade—It’s More Fun In The Philippines” tour at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Click to read the President’s speech:

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government at the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President received the King of Sweden, King Carl XVI Gustaf for a courtesy call at the Music Room.

President's Day: January 23, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended meetings at Malacañan Palace that were held in the Study Conference Room.

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of National Defense (DND).

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, DFA, and DND.

President's Day: January 27, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended several meetings held at Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., the President met with the Cabinet Secretary and officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary (ES), officials from the Department of Finance (DOF), and the Department of Budget and Management at the Study Conference Room.

At 3:30 p.m., the President met with ES, officials from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, DOF, and the Department of Interior and Local Government at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: January 30, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Right Honorable William Hague, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs called on President Benigno S. Aquino III at Malacañan Palace. At 1:30 p.m., the President received a courtesy call from the Bangsamoro Transition Commission at the President's Hall.

At 2:30 p.m., President Aquino attended a full Cabinet meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

President's Day: February 3, 2014

Today at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the ceremonial turnover of the 66,813 classrooms in Carmona Cavite. At 1:00 p.m., the President attended a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the same venue.

President's Day: February 4, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., the Philippine Medical Association of Chicago called on President Benigno S. Aquino III at Malacañan Palace where the President delivered a speech.

Shortly after at 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Justice, Department of Budget and Management, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa, at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President granted the *New York Times* and interview at the Music Room.

President's Day: February 5, 2014

At 10:30 a.m. today, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech during the signing ceremony of the memorandum of agreement between the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and the Provincial Government of Leyte at Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication, Department of Finance, and the Department of Justice at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Budget and Management in the Private Office.

President's Day: February 7, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the Philippine Army Change of Command Ceremony held at Fort Bonifacio. At 2:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel.

At 4:00 p.m., the President delivered a speech for the 50th anniversary of the Elsie Gaches Village in Muntinlupa.

President's Day: February 10, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the Outstanding Agency Awards of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration at Malacañan Palace. The President attended three meetings later that day in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: February 11, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino convened his Cabinet secretaries at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace for a meeting.

President's Day: February 12, 2014

President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Davao City today for the 2nd Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Local Government Units Summit on Governance and Development. Read his keynote speech at the Summit: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/02/12/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-2nd-armm-lgus-summit-on-governance-and-development/>

The Summit highlights the role of ARMM government units in the Mindanao peace process; and it likewise tackles LGUs' disaster management, mitigation, and response. "The President's visit," said Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, "serves to further catalyze our efforts to build a just and lasting peace among Lumads, Christians, and Muslims, coming at the heels of the opening of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission Office in Cotabato, which took place over the weekend."

President's Day: February 14, 2014

Today at 10:30 a.m., the President attended the Philippine Tourism Agencies Association 21st Travel Tour Expo in Pasay City where he delivered a speech. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Finance and the Executive Secretary at the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and his Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the same venue.

President's Day: February 17, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m. President Benigno S. Aquino III received Miss Tourism International 2013 Angeli Dione Gomez for a courtesy call at Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary (ES), the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel (CPLC), and officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Study Conference Room.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with ES, CPLC, and officials from the Department of Justice in the same venue.

President's Day: February 18, 2014

Today at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 3rd Euromoney Philippines Investment Forum 2014 held in Parañaque City delivered where he delivered a speech.

President's Day: February 20, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications in the Study Conference Room. At 2:00 p.m., the San Francisco Manila Sister City Committee Business and Cultural Mission called on the President at Rizal Hall. The President delivered a speech in this event.

At 3:00 p.m., Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop called on the President at the Music Room.

President's Day: February 21, 2014

This morning at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation and Communication, and the Metro Manila Development Authority in the Study Conference Room.

At 1:00 p.m., the President attended a briefing regarding the Malaysia state visit at the President's Hall.

At 2:30 p.m., Princes of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa met with President Benigno S. Aquino III during a courtesy call.

President's Day: February 26, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the same venue.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Executive Secretary, and the Cabinet Secretary in the Blue Room.

President's Day: February 27, 2014

Today at 11:30 a.m., the President departed Manila for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for his state visit. Before departing, the President delivered a speech at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2. At 8:30 p.m., the President attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Najib and Datin Rosmah Mansor, spouse of the Prime Minister.

President's Day: February 28, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was accorded a state welcoming ceremony and a state drive by His Majesty The Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and by Prime Minister Najib. At 11:30 a.m., the President attended the Expanded Bilateral Meeting between the Philippines and Malaysia.

At 12:15 p.m., the President witnessed the signing of the Agreement on Cultural, Arts, and Heritage Co-operation; and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Education.

At 12:30 p.m. the President delivered a Joint Press Statement with the Malaysian Prime Minister.

At 2:20 p.m., the President attended the Coffee Meeting with the Philippine Media.

At 4:30 p.m., the President attended the Business Forum with Malaysian businessmen. The event was a venue to highlight the Administration's thrust on good governance and principled economic management, encourage Malaysian businessmen to invest in the country, and to generate support for the country's PPP and other development projects, particularly in Mindanao.

At 5:35 p.m., the President met with Datuk Abdul Farid Alias, President and CEO of Malayan Banking (Maybank) Berhad.

At 6:00 p.m., the President met with officials from AirAsia Group, AirAsia Berhad and AirAsia Philippines.

At 6:25 p.m., the President met with officials from Genting Berhad. Genting Berhad was founded in 1965 to develop an integrated tourist complex in Malaysia, the Resorts World Genting

At 8:30 p.m., the President attended the State Banquet hosted by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Istana Negara.

At 11:15 p.m., the President participated in a departure ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport before leaving for Manila.

President's Day: February 28, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III was welcomed by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and His Excellency the Prime Minister at the Parliament House. At 2:20 p.m, the President attended the Coffee Meeting with the Philippine Media.

At 4:30 p.m., the President attended the Business Forum with Malaysian businessmen where he

At 5:35 p.m., the President met with The Honourable Datuk Abdul Farid Alias, President and CEO of Malayan Banking (Maybank) Berhad.

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At 8:30 p.m., the President attended a State Banquet hosted by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (YDPA) of Malaysia at the Istana Negara.

At 11:20 p.m., the President departed for Manila via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001.

President's Day: March 1, 2014

This morning, at 3:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a statement at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, upon his arrival from his two-day state visit to Malaysia.

President's Day: March 3, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance (DOF) in the Blue Room.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, officials from DBM, DOF, and the Department of Trade and Industry in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: March 6, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of Transportation and Communications in the Study Conference Room.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Private Office.

President's Day: March 7, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Department of Budget and Management, and the Solicitor General at the Study Conference Room.

At 1:00 p.m., the President received Angkla Partylist Rep. Jesulito Manalo at the Music Room for a courtesy call.

At 5:00 p.m., the President delivered a speech at the 28th anniversary of the Presidential Security Group.

President's Day: March 10, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III inducted into office the 2014 Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Board of Trustees and Officers during the ceremony at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Secretary of Energy and the Mindanao Development Authority in the Study Conference Room.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the same venue.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Office of the Cabinet Secretary at the President's Hall.

President's Day: March 11, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the Jollibee Twin Milestone celebration held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: March 12, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the wedding of Irvin and Mimi Alcala.

At 5:30 p.m., the President delivered a speech at the anniversary of the Ateneo Professional Schools at Rockwell, Makati City.

President's Day: March 13, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III paid a visit to the Hope Christian High School, for the event Hope for the Philippines: A Table Talk with the President, where he delivered a statement. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of National Defense and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the Study Conference Room.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the same venue.

President's Day: March 14, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room.

At 2:30 p.m., Unilever Global Chief Executive Officer Paul Polman paid a courtesy call to the President at the Music Room.

All photos by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.

President's Day: March 16, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor at the 109th commencement exercises of the Philippine Military Academy's class of 2014, Siklab Diwa, held in Fort General Gregorio del Pilar in Baguio City.

President Aquino delivered the following commencement address to Siklab Diwa:

President's Day: March 17, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of Budget and Management, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, and the Secretary of Transportation and Communications in the same venue.

Shortly after, at 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room.

President's Day: March 18, 2014

Earlier today, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oath-taking of the new officers of the Leagues of Local Government Units (LGUs), during a ceremony held at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel in Manila City.

This was followed by the 2014 League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly, where the President delivered a speech before the members of the Leagues of Local Government Units (LGUs).

Speech of President Aquino during the LMP General Assembly and oath-taking of LGU officials, March 18, 2014

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Benigno S. Aquino III
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa panunumpa ng mga bagong opisyal ng mga Liga ng Local Government Units at sa General Assembly ng
League of Municipalities of the Philippines**

[Inihayag sa Manila Hotel, Lungsod ng Maynila, noong ika-18 ng Marso 2014]

Maraming salamat po. Maupo ho tayong lahat.

Kagalang-galang na Kalihim Mar Roxas, Dinky Soliman, Joel Rocamora; ang pinakamatanda po sa aming partido, Boy Umali; si Mayor Sandy Javier, ‘yong kanino pong bagyong binanggit niya, “Santy” po iyon, hindi ho “Sandy;” siyempre, ang idol po, lahat naming kabataan, Mayor Bistek Baustista; Vice Governor Odi Fausto; board member Myrna Romarate; Vice Mayor Isko Moreno; Counselor Alma Moreno; Barangay Chairman Edmond Abesamis; fellow workers in government; honored guests; mga minamahal ko pong kababayan:

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Nakita ko po si Governor Pimentel; sabi ko, “Ang layo ng biniyahe niya.” Saka marami ho sa inyong malayo ang biniyahe dahil 91 percent nga raw ho ang attendance natin dito. At nag-isip ako, “Paano makabawi man lang nang kaunti sa inyong malasakit na dumalo sa atin pong meeting. [Applause]

Kanina po, tinitignan ko–ito po ‘yong speech ni Mayor Javier eh. Nang pagbukas niya kanina, naku ang daming pahina. Mukhang ito na yata ang bawi. Iyon pala malaki lang pala ho ang font. [Laughter] Ating kasamang butihing Mayor Domeng Marcos ng Bulacan, minsan ho’y nagtalumpati. Naglabas po siya ng cue cards. Mga ganyang kakapal. Kako, “Susmaryosep! Ano kaya ang kailangan ng bayang ito? Mukhang namili pa sa National Bookstore na ganyang karaming cue cards.” Iyon pala ang font po at ganoong kalaki. Kaya isang sentence lang ho, limang pahina. [Laughter]

Share ko lang ho: May shinare [share] ho kasi sa amin si Mayor Bobong Perez ng Urdaneta sa Pangasinan kanina–para madagdagan ko lang naman ang sigla n’yo: Mayroon hong isang taong OFW, nakabalik sa Pilipinas. ‘Yong pinag-ipunan niya, siyempre gusto naman niyang magamit at magkaroon siya ng enjoyment. So, bumili ho siya ng isang sasakyan na 4×4. Siyempre ‘yong 4×4 nakalagay “4×4.” Tapos ‘yong multiplication sign ay “x.” “4×4.” Eh may dumaan hong bata. ‘Yong bata ho medyo math champion ng kanyang paaralan. Nakita niya. “Uy! four times four!” E di kumuha ho ng bato, kiniskis, “= 16.” [Laughter] ‘Yong ginawa raw ho niya ‘yan–siyempre ‘yong tao, “Imamaneho ko nga ang bago kong sasakyan.” Nilinis pa niya. ‘Pag linis niya, nakita niya ginasgas, “Susmaryosep! Sino naman ang gumawa nito?” Dinala niya sa casa, pininturahan, inayos, balik sa dati. Eh nadaan na naman ‘yong bata noong hapon. “Oh! Nawala ‘yong aking equation!” Eh di kinumpleto na naman niya: 4×4=16. Tama na naman. Lakad na naman ‘yong bata. Gumising na naman kinabukasan. Nakita na naman niya, ganoon na naman, “Pambihira namang taong ito! Pinepersonal na nga ako kung sino man siya!” Binalik sa casa. Sabi ng casa ngayon, “Boss, walang mangyayari sa atin kung ganito nang ganito ang gagawin natin. Buti pa ipormal na natin ‘yang ‘=16.’ Pakopya na natin ang mga letra. Stainless steel natin ‘yan. Wala na sigurong gagasgas.” Ginawa nga nila. Siguro nga, iyon ang solusyon. Kinabukasan, tapos magkape, labas ‘yong tao, “Siguro naman ayos na.” Biglang napasigaw na naman, “Naku!” Dahil ang nilagay ho ng bata, nakita “4×4=16,” nilagay po pagkalaki-laking check. [Laughter and applause]

Sana, Mayor Bobong, galing talaga sa iyo ‘yan at hindi ka nangopya. Baka ma-accuse ka ng cheating. [Laughter]

Nang makita ko po ang imbitasyon ninyo sa aking tanggapan upang magsalita ngayong araw, unang pumasok sa isip ko po ang kuwento ng transpormasyon ng Quezon City sa panahon ng panunungkulan ng ating butihing Speaker

Sonny Belmonte. Alam naman po ninyo na isa ang Quezon City sa pinakamaunlad na lungsod sa Pilipinas ngayon. Pero hindi po ganoon ang sitwasyon nang unang maupo si Speaker. Ang dinatnan po niya: P2.65 billion iyan po ang utang at bayarin ng Lungsod Quezon. Nang matapos po ang kanyang tatlong termino bilang mayor, hindi lang po niya nasolusyunan ang minana niyang problema, nag-iwan pa siya ng surplus na umabot sa halagang anim na bilyong piso.

Kung mababalitaan ito ng mga Pilipinong nasanay na sa katiwalian at lumang sistema, malamang, ang masasabi nila, “Aba, imposible naman ata ‘yun! Hindi kaya inimbento lang ‘yan?” Ang sagot po natin sa kanila: Puwede nilang tingnan ang public records ng Quezon City kung gusto nila ng patunay. At hindi po magician si Speaker Belmonte. Ang totoo, ginawa lamang niya ang narapat na gawin ng isang pinuno na may konsensiya at malasakit sa kanyang mga kababayan. Isa po sa mga ginawa niya: Nilinis niya ang burukrasya. Pinahusay niya ang pangongolekta ng buwis, at ginawa niyang tapat at makatuwiran ang paggastos sa pondo ng bayan. Unang-una po, higit-kumulang sa 3,000 empleyado ang tinanggal niya sa City Hall nang makita niyang may mga posisyong hindi kailangan. Ultimo po kasi ‘yong pinaka-junior na clerk, mayroon pang tatlong assistant na nagre-report po tuwing kinsenas at a-trenta. Isa sa kanila raw ho ay sumasahod ng hindi bababa 6,000 pesos kada buwan noong panahon iyon.

Kung tutuusin, puwede naman pong ipinagpatuloy na lang ni Speaker Belmonte ang nakasanayang sistema kung saan iilan lamang ang nakikinabang, at wala siyang nagiging kaaway. Sa halip, ginawa pa rin niya ang tama; hindi siya natakot sa banta ng kanyang mga kinabangga na nagsabing “Humanda ka, hindi ka namin iboboto namin maski sino ang kalaban mo sa susunod na eleksyon.” Ang naisip niya, hindi mawawala ang tiwala sa kanya ng mga mamamayan kung gagawin niya nang mahusay at matapat ang kanyang tungkulin. At tunay nga po: sinuklian naman ito ng tiwala ng mga taga-Quezon City.

Alam po n’yo, ‘pag nakikita ko si Bistek, talagang paniwalang-paniwala po akong napakaganda ang finances ng Quezon City. Sa tagal kong kakilala ‘to, wala pang hinihingi sa akin ‘to. Puwede nga ho sigurong maging Republic of Quezon City, pero huwag naman sanang sa mga panahong ito.

Naaalala ko rin po: Noong manungkulan ako bilang kinatawan ng ikalawang distrito ng Tarlac, kung saan 159 na mga barangay natin ang saklaw ng ikalawang distrito. Ang paninindigan ko po, kailangan ang tinatawag na consensus para maging batayan sa pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto. Nakikipagdiyalogo ako sa mamamayan para malaman kung ano ang gusto nila para sa kanilang bawat barangay. Nagpupulong kami, at umpisang madalas na nababanggit ang pagpapatayo ng covered courts at pagpapaganda ng barangay hall. Sabi ko po, “Kapag nangyari po ‘yun, ipinapaliwanag ko na baka mas mainam kung mamumuhunan kami sa kinabukasan, tulad ng pagpapagawa ng mga patubig, o kaya pagpapatayo ng mga silid-aralan o kaya paggagawa o pagkukumpuni ng mga kalsada o pagdidikit ng kuryente.” Hindi ako nagdidikta sa kanila; sa halip ay pinag-uusapan namin ang mga proyekto upang mabalanse ang kanilang kagustuhan at pangangailangan.

Alam po n’yo, parang naging uso sa amin, ‘pag may nag-umpisang “Kailangan namin ng covered courts,” lahat “Ay, kami rin! Kailangan namin ng covered courts.” Ang ating butihin Mayor Dennis Tañedo po makakaalala ng mga panahong iyon. Sabi ko, “Saan ba natin itatayo? At tatakpan natin ang solar dryer.” Kako, “Kung tinakpan natin ang solar dryer, paano papasok si solar?” Sabi nila, “Sa singit-singit nalang ho dadaan ‘yan.” Baka naman mahanapan pa tayo ng COA, saan nagpunta ang solar dryer n’yo?

Sa mga kuwento pong ito, makita n’yo sanang imposible lamang ang pagbabago kung ang isang pinuno ay iniisip lang ang pansariling interes, at ang pagpapapogi para sa susunod na eleksyon. ‘Yon bang imbes na magpatupad ng mga programang pangmatagalan at pangmaramihan ang benepisyo, ay gumagawa ng mga proyektong pagkatapos ng photo-ops ay wala nang natutulungan.

Iisa lang naman po ang pangako natin sa ating mga kababayan: Ang paglilingkod na magpapabuti sa kanilang kalagayan. Mas mahusay at mas mabilis natin itong matutupad kung iisa ang ating paghakbang. Kung isa sa atin ang mag-iba ng direksiyon, magiging pabigat siya sa iba, at babagal ang ating pag-usad. Binigyan tayo ng pambihirang pagkakataon para gumawa ng pagbabago. Magkapit-bisig po tayo upang maging permanente ang epekto ng mga napasimulan natin nitong nagdaang tatlong taon. Tapos na po ang panahon kung kailan walang tiwala ang

mamamayan sa kanilang pamahalaan, at napakadaling magsabi na “kahit sino pa ang maupo diyan, noong araw ay wala namang mangyayari.” Ngayon po ay hindi na ganoon. Huwag tayong pumayag na magbalik pa ang panahong ito.

Ang masisiguro naman po sa inyo: Kung nasa panig kayo ng tuwid, kung nasa panig kayo ng ating mga Boss, hindi namin kayo hahayaang mag-isa. Kami po sa pambansang pamahalaan ay kumakayod din para padaliin ang trabaho ng mga nais magsulong ng reporma. Halimbawa nga po itong Seal of Good Housekeeping ng ating DILG. Sinimulan po ito ng yumaong Secretary Jesse Robredo; nang dinatnan naman po ito ni Secretary Mar Roxas, hindi lang niya ito itinuloy, pinatibay pa niya ito at pinalawak, para masigurong mas epektibo at mas mabilis nating maipatupad ang ating agenda ng pagbabago. Nito pong Enero ng 2014, inilunsad ni Kalihim Mar ang Seal of Good Local Governance. Bukod sa tapat at episyenteng paggastos sa pondo ng bayan, nakapaglatag rin ang SGLG ng mga pamantayan para sa paghahanda sa mga kalamidad at sakuna, pangangalaga sa kalikasan, pagtutok sa mga sektor na nasa laylayan ng lipunan at may espesyal na pangangailangan, pagpapasigla sa pagnenegosyo, at pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan. Maging malinaw po sana sa inyo: Ang SGLG ay isang imbitasyon. At sa pagtugon nang wasto, matatamasa ninyo ang benepisyo nito.

Noong nakaraang taon, 719 na probinsiya, lungsod, at munisipalidad na ang nabigyan ng Performance Challenge Fund na may kabuuang halagang ng isang bilyong piso. Ayuda po ang Performance Challenge Fund—ibig-sabihin, kayo bilang kinatawan ng inyong mga local government unit ang dapat magpasimula ng mga inisyatibang mapapakinabangan ng mga mamamayan. Kayo ang nasa lokal na pamahalaan; kayo ang may malalim na pag-unawa sa mga pangangailangan ng inyong kababayan; kayo ang nasa magandang posisyon para gumawa ng mga kongkretoong hakbang upang tugunan ang mga ito. Ang gusto ko pong bigyan ng diin: Ang Performance Challenge Fund ay para sa lahat ng gustong tuparin ang kanilang pangako bilang lingkod bayan. Hindi po kailangan ng palakasan at papogian. Hindi n’yo kailangang sumipsip para mabigyan ng Performance Challenge Fund. At kahit saang partido pa kayo nanggaling, basta nagpapakitang-gilas kayo sa serbisyo at tapat na sumusunod sa mga patakaran, mabibigyan kayo ng kaukulang pondo at insentibo upang maiangat pa ang pamumuhay ng inyong mga nasasakupan. [Applause] Pero kung gusto rin n’yo sumama sa amin, welcome rin po kayo. [Applause]

Balita ko po: 1,372 na probinsiya, lungsod, at munisipalidad na ang nakatupad sa minimum requirements ng Seal of Good Housekeeping nito pong nakaraang 2013. Walumpung porsyento ito ng kabuuang bilang ng ating mga LGU. Kaya naman, sa nalalabing 20 percent, hinihimok ko kayong makisagwan sa transpormasyong nagaganap sa ating lipunan. At sa bawat isa po sa ating mga LGU: Sana naman po ay hindi lang minimum ang ating habulin; sa halip, talaga pong ibuhos natin ang lahat ng ating makakaya, upang pagharap natin sa kanya-kaniyang mga salamin ay masabi nating, “Tinupad ko ang aking sinumpaang tungkulin; naging kabahagi ako ng pagbabago; tapat akong naglingkod sa kapwa ko Pilipino.”

Marahil po ay nababalitaan ninyo sa loob at labas ng ating bansa, marami ang nagugulat sa nangyayaring transpormasyon ng Pilipinas. Ang sagot natin sa kanila: Walang pong himala. Resulta lamang ito ng pagtitiwala ng mga mamamayan na posible ang pagbabago, at ng paninindigan ng mga pinuno na gawin ang tama at ang pagkalinga sa Poong Maykapal.

Nanumbalik na po ang kompiyansa ng mga namumuhunan sa ating bayan. Hindi na nila kailangang matakot na sa pagtatayo nila ng negosyo, habang nakikipagkamay sila sa kanan ay kinukupitan naman sila sa kaliwa. At kaakibat po ng paglago ng ating ekonomiya ang pagtataas sa antas ng serbisyo at benepisyong naihatid natin sa mas nakakarami.

Kadadalo nga lang po natin nitong Linggo sa graduation ng PMA kung saan inihayag natin ang nagaganap na modernisasyon sa ating Sandatahang Lakas. Mga halimbawa po nito ang pagbili natin ng mga bagong armas upang mapalitan ang mga ripleng ginamit pa noong panahon pa ng Vietnam War. Sabi ko nga po doon sa mga nag-graduate ng PMA, ‘di pa kayo napapanganak, ginagamit po ng estado ang mga ripleng ito. Sa mga susunod na buwan nga po, maipapamahagi na sa mga tagapagtanggol ng ating bayan ang 63,000 na bagong riple.

Bukod sa mga armas, napasakamay narin natin ang dalawang Hamilton Class Cutter—’yon po ang Ramon Alcaraz at Gregorio del Pilar. Mayroon na rin po tayong walong Sokol combat utility helicopters—brand new po ang mga

helicopters ito, at sinundan pa ng na-deliver ng tatlong bagong Navy helicopters. Dagdag pa rito, bibili rin tayo ng 12 lead-in fighter trainer aircraft mula sa South Korea, at ng dagdag pang walong combat, o brand new na naman, na combat utility helicopters at 21 na refurbished.

Para naman po sa ating kapulisan, inumpisahan na noong nakaraang taon ang distribusyon ng mga bagong unit ng 9mm Glock 17 pistols sa ating mga alagad ng batas. Nasa 74,879 ang kabuuang bilang ng baril na kasado nang ipamahagi sa kanila, upang maabot na ang ating mithiin one-is-to-one police-to-pistol ratio.

Ang good news naman po mula sa TESDA: Umabot na sa kabuuang 616,126 na benepisyaryo ang nakapagtapos sa ating Training-for-Work-Scholarship Program mula Hulyo 2010 hanggang Disyembre 2013. At isipin po ninyo: noong araw nga po, ayon sa datos ng Department of Budget and Management, 28.5 percent lamang ng graduates ng TESDA ang nakahanap ng trabaho noong mga taong 2006 hanggang 2008. Ngayon po, naiangat na po natin ito sa general average na 62 percent, at sa ibang mga panig po ay umaabot na sa 80 plus percent.

Nakita rin po natin ang epektibong pagkilos ng ating mga ahensya sa nagdaang mga pagsubok sa ating bansa. Isang halimbawa po nito ang Department of Energy sa pangunguna ni Secretary Icot Petilla. Nang sinuri po nila kung gaano katagal maibabalik ang kuryente sa 320 na mga lugar na tinamaan ng bagyong Yolanda, ang tantiya po nila: anim na buwan ang kakailanganin. At dito po tayo pinahanga ni Secretary Icot at ng DOE; makalipas lang ang 40 araw, imbis na anim na buwan— at ilang oras lang po ang pagkalagpas doon sa 40 araw na iyan— naibalik na ang kuryente sa lahat po ng 320 lugar na kailangan ibalik ang kuryente. [Applause] Dahil naman puspusan doon sa self-imposed deadline niya ng 40 days, pinagre-resign siya dahil may tatlong hindi umabot sa 40th day, naging 40 days and several hours.

Buti na lang po at mapagpasensya si Secretary Icot, dahil sa kabila ng kanyang pagpapakitang-gilas, mayroon pa ring puro kapintasan lang ang napapansin: 317 po kasi ‘yung nalilimutan, tatlo ang pinipilit bigyan ng diin.

Hindi na rin usad-pagong ang ating paglalatatag ng mga imprastruktura. Isa nga pong matingkad na halimbawa ng proyektong lubhang pinabagal ng baluktot na kalakaran ang Manila North at Manila South Expressways noong dekada 70. Ayon sa plano, gagawa sila ng kalsadang babagtas mula sa norte sa Carmen Rosales sa Pangasinan, hanggang sa katimugan, Lucena, Quezon. Tanungin ko nga po ang bawat isa sa inyong napapadaan sa mga lugar na ito, matapos ang mahigit tatlong dekada, may nakikita na ba kayong ni isang dipang kalsada na natapos ng proyektong ito sa Carmen, Rosales, sa Pangasinan o sa Lucena, Quezon?

Sa ilalim po ng ating pamumuno, humanap tayo ng solusyon na alinsunod sa Saligang Batas upang tugunan ito. Wala naman po sa plano nating ipamana sa susunod na administrasyon ang suliraning ito. At sa katunayan, inilunsad na po ang Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 Project nitong Enero—ang ikatlong bahagi ng Metro Manila Skyway na inumpisahan pa noong dekada 90.

Kasabay nito, umaarangkada na rin ang proyekto nating Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway. Noong nakaraang taon, nakumpleto na natin ang bahaging bumabagtas sa Tarlac City, patungo ng Gerona at Paniqui. Sa December 2015, inaasahan nating matatapos na ang buong kalsadang ito hanggang sa paanan na raw ng Kennon. At habang nandito si Governor Imee, ang balita ko po, ang pinaplano nila paabutin narin ‘yong TPLEX—may bago nang pangalan—hanggang sa Ilocos Sur at Ilocos Norte. [Applause]

Kung naalala po ninyo, nangako ako na hindi tayo magtataas ng buwis. Lahat po ng ito, nagawa natin nang hindi nagtataas nga ng buwis maliban sa Sin Tax. Isipin na lang po ninyo, kung noon pa lang ay tuwid na ang pamamahala, di hamak na mas malayo pa sana ang narating natin sa kasalukuyan.

Maihahambing ko po ang ginagawa nating pagbabago sa sistema ng pamamahala sa isang pagsasalu-salo sa hapag-kainan. Sa lumang sistema, kinukuha ng mga tiwali ang malaking bahagi ng handa, ang mga matitira ay pinaghahatian ng mamamayan. Habang lumalaki ang pangangailangan dahil lumalaki ang sambayanan, paunti nang paunti ang pinaghahatian, o ang parte ng bawat isa, hanggang sa wala nang matira para mapakain ang lahat. Baka nga ‘yong iba, nakikiamoy na lang dahil nasimot na pati ang latak sa mga pinggan.

Sa bagong sistema, nag-aambagan ang bawat isa sa atin upang maparami ang handa, na sama-sama at patas nating pinagsasaluhan. At 'di po ba, sa pagtitiwala at pagtutulungan nating ito, natitiyak nating masagana rin ang salo-salo ng mga susunod pang darating sa hapag-kainan?

Darating po ang araw na magkukuwento ang mga susunod na henerasyon tungkol sa isang napakahalagang panahon sa Pilipinas—isang panahon ng pagkakaisa, transpormasyon, at pag-unlad. Sa kuwentong iyon, may mahalagang papel na ginagampanan ang bawat probinsiya, lungsod, munisipalidad, at barangay. Nawa'y lagi po nating isaisip: Sa bawat maliit na kilos natin, sa bawat desisyon, sa bawat pagpili ng tuwid sa araw-araw nating pagharap sa sangandaan, minamarkahan natin ang kasaysayan. Tayo mismo ang nagpupunla at nagdidilig ng pagbabago; tayo mismo ang nagsusulat ng kuwento ng isang bayang nagkaisa, bumangon, at sa tulong ng Maykapal, ay tinupad ang kanyang mga pangarap.

Bago po ako magtapos, gusto ko lang hong bigyan ng diin at puri ang kagalang-galang na Sandy Javier ng Javier, Leyte. [Applause]

Noong dumating po ang Yolanda, hindi ho kasing napinsala ang Javier tulad ng mga karatig-lugar. Pwede naman niyang sinabi, “Salamat sa Diyos at hindi kami masyadong naapektuhan.” Pero minabuti po ni Sandy Javier at iba pa nating mga mayor sa Leyte, Samar, at sa iba pang lugar na kung sila hindi diretsuhan, talagang todo sinalanta ni Yolanda, dinamayan kaagad na walang pagtutulak ang problema ng mga karatig-lugar at ‘yung iba pa’y mas malayong mga lugar. Pagkatanda ko nga ho, sa pagtutulungan ni Sandy at saka ng MMDA, nagkaroon ng adoption ang atin pong Metro Manila Council ng kanilang mga sister communities and municipalities para maidagdag ang tulong, ang kakayahan, ang kagamitan, nitong kanilang mga sister cities, para mapabilis ang pagbalik muli mula sa dinatnan sa Yolanda.

Ngayon po, kanina, nabiro tayo ni Sandy na ‘yong mga hiling n’yo. Bago pa kayo humiling, pwede bang tugunan ko na? Tinanong ko po, ang follow-up po kay Secretary Roxas kahapon, mayroon tayo kasing mga programa para sa Regions 6, 7, and 8 para sa Yolanda at mayroon pang mga ibang programa na hindi naman nakatutok sa Yolanda, pero pagdiin ko lang po ‘yung sa Yolanda. Mayroon ho tayong inaasahan kasing mga tinatawag na program of works, na 271. Ito po ay pagbabalik ng kanilang mga munisipyo, mga palengke, at mga civic center. [Applause] So far po, ang nag-submit na ng kanilang mga program of works na siyang pagmumulan ng kanilang, parang, dahilan o rason para mai-release ‘yong pondo, eh sa out of 271, 228 na po ang nag-submit ng program of works, nagkakahalaga po ng 600 milyong piso ito at dahil nai-submit na po ninyo ang program of works, kino-commit ho ng DILG na mairelease ang pondo ng ten days mula noong pag-submit n’yo [applause]. Ang problema ko lang ho, may 43 na hindi pa ho nagsa-submit. ‘Yung 43 po na may karapatan na hindi pa ho nagsa-submit, kung ayaw na po ninyo ‘yong pondo, okay na din po, i-shashare na lang natin doon sa ibang nangangailangan. Kung kailangan naman po n’yo, pakialala lang po noong tayo ang nag-aaral, sabi ng Teacher, “Finish or not finish, pass your paper.” Baka naman ‘pag na-pass na ‘yong paper, doon kayo humabol at kayo’y magreklamo na hindi kayo tinulungan. So, ulitin ko lang po, nananawagan tayo doon sa 43, na kulang pa ho ‘yung inyong mga program of works, gawin muna ang proseso.

Ulitin ko po, trabaho ng National Government na punuin ang mga pangangailangan po n’yo. at siguro idagdag ko rin sa magandang balita, alam naman po ninyo na nakakailang biyahe rin tayo sa labas tulad ng pagpunta sa bansang Hapon at bansang Korea. Lalo na po sa bansang Hapon, napakarami ng mga investors na parating sa atin. Last year po, umangat ng ten percent ang manufacturing—growth in the manufacturing sector. So, ulitin ko, lahat naman ho nitong mga pabrika, lahat naman po nitong negosyante, local and foreign—saan ba sila pupunta kung ‘di specific na lugar po dito sa Pilipinas? Pagdating ho ba nitong mga negosyanteng tutulong sa atin magbigay ng mga trabaho para talaga inclusive growth tayo. Sana po ay harapin natin silang lahat sa espiritu ng gabayan at pagtutulungan. ‘Yung tutulong sa atin, tulungan na natin, ‘wag na natin pahirapan. At ang pangako naman ho sa inyo—‘yung natuwa sa pagdating dito sa atin at nagtagumpay sila ayon sa kanilang plano dahil tinulungan natin, ‘yan naman po ang mga bago nating embahador na magsasabing, tumungo kayo sa Pilipinas, napakaganda ng sitwasyon doon. Para mangyari po ‘yan, siyempre, kayong mga punong-lungsod, kayo pong mga gobernador, pati na rin ‘yung mga hepe ng barangay ay malaking bahagi para maging kaganapan ‘yan at bawat nga ho isang dumating ay talaga naman pong malaki ang maitutulong tungo inclusive growth. So, ako po ay medyo mahaba na nagsalita. Ang gusto ko po ‘pag nakikita kayo, ako po ang nakikinig at naglilista ‘yong aking assistant na si Jun Delantar na nawawala sa kasalukuyan, nandito pala sa gilid. Bago po magtapos po, alam ninyo tatlong buwan na lang, babalik na naman tayo

sa ating rainy season kung saan magdadating ang mga bagyo, alam po natin na shinare [share] na po sa inyo ang mga mapa ng ating disaster-prone areas. So, sana po tutukan natin ‘yan habang may oras pa tayo, sana masabi natin, “Ginawa na natin ang lahat ng dapat magawa.” Ngayon, binabanggit ko lang ho ‘yan dahil po kaninang nakaupo kami ng mga butihing mga kasama, akala naman lumilindol. Aba, bakit yumayanig itong entablado? ‘Yon pala naglalakad lang pala ang aking assistant. Medyo malambot pala ‘yung kahoy sa likod namin. Mga kasama, uulitin ko po, ‘yung problema n’yong hindi kaya, ipasa ninyo sa amin, pagtutulungan natin. Basta nasa lugar kayo, asahan ninyong kasama n’yo kami.

Magandang umaga po. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

President's Day: March 19, 2014

Earlier today, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the Pinoy Music Summit at the Landbank Building in Malate, Manila. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with Mitsubishi Corporation (MMC) President Osamu Masuko during a courtesy call held in Malacañan Palace.

Mr. Masuko was accompanied by Hikosaburo Shibata (President and CEO), Junya Masuda (Executive Vice President – Marketing Division), Tatsuo Nakamura (Vice Corporate General Manager), Yoshizumi Kurata (Senior Vice President-Sojitz Corporation), and Morizaku Chokki (Senior Executive Officer).

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of Transportation and Communication, and the Secretary of Finance in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: March 20, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the conferment ceremony of the 16th Philippine Quality Awards (PQA) where he delivered a speech.

The Philippine Quality Award Program recognizes the achievements of public- and private-sector organizations as they strive for performance excellence. It follows a global competitiveness template that aims to encourage and engage public and private organizations and other stakeholders.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Trade and Industry in the Blue Room.

President's Day: March 21, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary (CabSec).

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary (ES), CabSec, officials from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF) at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from DBM, DOF, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Public Works and Highways, CabSec, and ES in the same venue.

President's Day: March 24, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the launching of Alaga Ka Para Sa Maayos na Buhay program held in the Quezon Memorial Circle where he delivered a speech. President Aquino: “Patuloy tayong magtatrabaho upang marating ang panahon na imbes na iasa pa ni Juan ang paggaling sa hilot, ay magpapagamot siya sa ating maaasahang propesyunal. Patuloy tayong kakayod upang hindi na kailanganin pa ng mga kababayan natin sa liblib na lugar ang kilo-kilometrong paglalakad bago makarating ng ospital. Patuloy tayong magsusulong ng mga serbisyo, hindi lang para sumigla ang mga pamayanan ngayon, kundi upang maitaguyod din ang maayos na buhay at kinabukasan ng ating mamamayan.”

At 1:00 p.m., the President swore into office newly elected officials of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., and Anvil Business Club. Afterward, he delivered the following speech

At 3:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, and Secretary of Energy Icot Petilla at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: March 25, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino received the graduates of the Department of Public Works and Highways Cadet Engineering Program, who paid a courtesy call on the President at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace. At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Budget and Management at the Private Office.

President's Day: March 26, 2014

Today at 9:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 46th commencement exercises and 50th anniversary of Philippine Science High School where he delivered a speech. At 1:00 p.m., the President attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Executive Secretary, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Department of Health in the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of National Defense and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Private Office.

President's Day: March 27, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

At 1:00 p.m., the President received United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark for a courtesy call at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President received Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, Chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), for a courtesy call at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace. The MILF chair is in Manila to attend the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) this afternoon—a significant step to lasting peace in Mindanao. At 4:00 p.m., The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro during ceremonies at Malacañan Palace earlier today, March 27, 2014.

The CAB incorporates agreements signed by both parties: the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, the four Annexes and the Addendum, the Ceasefire Agreement of 1997, and the Tripoli Agreement in 2001, among others. The culmination of seventeen years of negotiations between the Philippine government and the MILF, the CAB will likewise be basis for the crafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law Bill

At 6:00 p.m., a Merienda Cena in honor of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Najib Razak, was held at Malacañan Palace where the President gave a toast.

President's Day: March 28, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of National Defense, and the Chief Presidential Legal Adviser at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:00 p.m., President Aquino received Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: March 29, 2014

President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor during the 60th anniversary of Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCII) at the Solaire Resort and Casino in Parañaque City, where he delivered a speech in front of the top Filipino-Chinese business leaders.

Watch the speech of President Aquino at the FFCCCII's 60th anniversary celebration:

President's Day: March 31, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor during the Philippine National Police Academy's (PNPA) 35th Commencement Exercises for Mandilaab Class of 2014, where he delivered a speech in front of the graduates and guests at the PNPA Grandstand, Camp General Mariano N. Castañeda in Silang, Cavite. At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, and officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: April 1, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Araw ng Parangal sa Kapulisan, at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City where he addressed the attendees and personally handed out awards to the policemen and policewomen who showed valiant efforts. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Study Conference room.

President's Day: April 2, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials of Department of Transportation and Communications in the President's Hall.

At 3:00 p.m., President Aquino had a meeting with the speechwriters in the Private Office.

President's Day: April 4, 2014 This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

At 1:00 p.m., President Aquino presided over a meeting with officials of Department of Public Works and Highways regarding the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Conference) summit in the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and officials of Department of Justice at the same venue.

President's Day: April 7, 2014

Earlier today, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oath-taking of newly appointed officials: Joseph Gerald B. Angeles, Ambassador Extraordinary to South Africa; Petronila Garcia, Ambassador Extraordinary to Canada; Raul Hernandez, Ambassador Extraordinary to Republic of Korea; Marciano A. Paynor, Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary, Office of the President; Eduardo Oban, Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary; Jose Manuel Reverente, Undersecretary, Department of Finance; Edwin Carillo, Assistant Government Corporate Council, DOJ; Victorio Mario Dimagiba, Undersecretary, DTI; and Luie Tito Guia, Commissioner, COMELEC. Afterwards, he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Department of Justice and Department of Interior and Local Government at the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials of National Economic and Development Authority and Department of Interior and Local Government in the Private Office.

President's Day: April 8, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received the credentials of six new ambassadors to the Philippines at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The diplomats who presented their credentials to the President were Indian Ambassador Lalduthlana Ralte, Omani Ambassador Munther Mahfood Salim Al-Mantheri, Turkish Ambassador Esra Cancorur, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, Indonesian Ambassador Johny Lumintang, and German Ambassador Thomas Ossowski.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of National Defense, and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:30 p.m., the President held a meeting once again at the Private Office—this time with the Executive Secretary, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel.

During the day, the President also visited the wake of respected industrialist, publisher and philanthropist Don Emilio Yap, who passed away a day earlier, at the Manila Prince Hotel in Paco, Manila.

President's Day: April 9, 2014

Today at 9:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led the nation's commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Fall of Bataan and the 2014 Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) at the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Mt. Samat Shrine in Pilar, Bataan. The Official Gazette pays tribute to the Filipino veterans through a special webpage—with photos, videos, and interactive maps depicting the Fall of Bataan and World War II: www.gov.ph/araw-ng-kagitingan/.

President's Day: April 10, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Secretary of National Defense at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with officials of the Department of Trade and Industry at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., the President held a meeting again at the Private Office—this time with the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and officials from the Office of Executive Secretary.

President's Day: April 11, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Cabinet Secretary, and officials of the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, and officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Budget and Management at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:30 p.m., the President held a meeting again at the Study Conference Room—this time with officials from the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of Budget and Management.

President's Day: April 3, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III received President Tony Tan Keng Yang of Republic of Singapore for a courtesy call, who came for a state visit to the Philippines. President Aquino delivered a statement during their Joint Press Conference.

President Aquino also offered a toast during the state luncheon for the harmonious relationship between the Philippines and Singapore.

At 2:30 p.m., President Aquino had a meeting with the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of National Defense at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: April 15, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President held a meeting again at the Study Conference Room, this time with officials from the Department of Energy.

At 2:30 p.m., the President's Lenten and Easter video messages were shot at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: April 23, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Department of Finance (DOF) at the Study Conference Room of the Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President held a meeting again with officials from DOF at the Study Conference Room, but they were joined this time with officials from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Budget and Management, and other government officials.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from NEDA, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other government officials at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: April 24, 2014 Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office of the Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President held a meeting again at the Private Office, this time with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and other government officials.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with his speechwriters at the Blue Room of the Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: April 28, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary and other government officials at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The afternoon marked the beginning of the President's activities for the two-day state visit of the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, to the Philippines.

Read the Official Gazette's briefer on the Philippine-U.S. diplomatic relations: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/04/25/briefer-diplomatic-relations-between-ph-usa/>; as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs' fact sheet on the Philippine-U.S. bilateral relations: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/04/28/dfa-fact-sheet-philippine-united-states-bilateral-relations/>.

At 2:10 p.m., President Aquino welcomed President Obama at the Malacañan Palace grounds, where the latter is accorded with arrival honors upon his entrance.

Watch as President Aquino leads the welcome ceremony for President Obama at the Malacañan Palace grounds: [youtube]<http://youtu.be/ISZxhfTuLtw>[/youtube] At 2:30 p.m., President Obama joined President Aquino for the official welcome photo opportunity at the Music Room of the Malacañan Palace. 3:30 p.m., President Aquino and President Obama each had their own private time before their joint press conference 15 minutes later.

At 3:45 p.m., President Aquino and President Obama held a joint press conference in front of the members of local and foreign media at the President's Hall of the Malacañan Palace.

Read, in full, President Aquino's statement during his joint press conference with U.S. President Barack Obama:

President Aquino met President Obama at the Main Lobby of the Malacañan Palace, prior to the state dinner in honor of the visiting U.S. president.

At 7:15 p.m., President Aquino hosted a state dinner in honor of President Obama at the Rizal Hall of the Malacañan Palace. During his toast, President Aquino conferred the Order of Sikatuna—with a rank of Raja—upon the visiting U.S. head of state.

The Order of Sikatuna, which was conferred upon President Obama during the state dinner held in his honor.

President's Day: April 30, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Cabinet Secretary, and officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office of the Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President held a meeting again at the Private Office, this time with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and other government officials.

At 3:00 p.m., the President led the Change of Command Ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines—Philippine Navy at the Salvo Pier, Sangley Point in Cavite City. Rear Admiral Jesus Millan replaced Vice Admiral Jose Luis Alano as the new Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy.

Read President Aquino's speech at the Philippine Navy Change of Command Ceremony: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/04/30/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-philippine-navy-change-of-command-april-30-2014/>

Read the profile of Rear Admiral Jesus Millan, the new Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/04/30/profile-rear-admiral-jesus-c-millan-flag-officer-in-command-of-the-philippine-navy/>

President's Day: May 1, 2014

Today is Labor Day. The President had trips to three private companies in Laguna. The trips were as follows:

- 10:00 a.m., at Testech Inc., an electronics inspection firm in Calamba, Laguna
- 10:50 a.m., at Alliance Mansol Inc. (AMI), in Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna
- 11:25 a.m., at the Integral Micro-Electronics Inc. (IMI), also in Technopark

There he gave a speech praising the nation's labor force as well as the Training for Work Scholarship Program enforced by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), which indicates the development and progress of the administration's initiative for better job opportunities to citizens.

President's Day: May 2, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the launch of the Bohol Fabrication Laboratory (FABLAB) Shared Service Facility Project in Bohol Island State University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. This launch was part of the first FABLAB Asian Network (FAN1) Boot Camp and Conference. At 4:00 p.m., the President attended the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Thanksgiving Celebration held in the CAAP Covered Court, at their Central Office, Pasay City.

President's Day: May 5, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office of Malacañan Palace.

Shortly after at 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the same venue.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Transportation and Communications at the Private Office

President's Day: May 6, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with delegations from the National Diet of Japan, led by the Chairman of the Japan Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL) Kenji Kosaka at a courtesy call in Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President conferred outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Philippines Jorge Domecq with the Order of Sikatuna, a rank of Datu. Read about the Order of Sikatuna's history, its different ranks, as well as the roster of those previously awarded: <http://www.gov.ph/the-order-of-sikatuna/>

At 1:30 p.m., the President administered Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan's oath of office. Pangilinan, a former senator, was appointed as the new Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization through Memorandum Order No. 70, s. 2014, which was signed yesterday. The new secretary will be tasked to administer the proper distribution and storage of food goods. The ceremony was also held in the Music Room.

President's Day: May 7, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Cabinet Secretary and officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President held a meeting again at the Private Office—this time with the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Secretary of Transportation and Communications.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and other government officials at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: May 8, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Cabinet Secretary, representatives from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and other government officials at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President held a meeting at the Malacañan Palace's Blue Room with the Executive Secretary, representatives from the Department of Budget and Management, and other government officials.

At 3:30 p.m., the President met again with the Executive Secretary. Joining them are the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and other government officials.

President's Day: May 9, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary, as well as officials from the Department of Budget and Management, and other government officials in Malacañan Palace.

After lunch, at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Council, and the Solicitor General at the Study Conference Room.

Later, at 3:00 p.m., the President sat down with his speechwriters in the Blue Room.

President's Day: May 10, 2014

1:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. Manila Time) – The President departed Manila for Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001. Before boarding, he delivered a statement.

3:20 p.m. (4:50 p.m. Manila Time) – The President arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

7:00 p.m. (8:30 p.m. Manila Time) – The President attended the Welcome Dinner hosted by H.E. Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Madame Daw Khin Khin Win, in honor of the Heads of State/Government. Learn more about the ASEAN Leaders' Summit, to be held until May 11, 2014:

President's Day: May 11, 2014

9:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the Opening Ceremony of the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. **10:15 a.m.** (11:45 a.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the 24th ASEAN Summit–Plenary. The Plenary is a more formal and structured type of discussion where the leaders of ASEAN Member States (AMS) exchange views on the political security, economic, and sociocultural development of the AMS.

11:30 a.m. (1:00 p.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the 24th ASEAN Summit–Retreat. The Retreat is meant for the leaders of ASEAN Member States (AMS) to have an open and frank exchange of views on the political security, economic, and sociocultural development of the AMS.

2:00 p.m. (3:30 p.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). The AIPA was formed on September 2, 1977 to attain the goals and aspirations of the ASEAN through inter-parliamentary cooperation. The AIPA General Assembly is held annually, in which the AIPA meets with the ASEAN Dialogue Partners. Dialogue partners include Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

3:00 p.m. (4:40 p.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). During the 11th ASEAN Leaders' Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the ASEAN recognized the first Civil Society Conference. This recognition underscored the important role that civil society plays in developing a people-centered ASEAN. The CSOs that have a formal link with ASEAN are those non-profit organizations that promote, strengthen, and help realize the aims and objectives of ASEAN cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, and culture, among others.

3:45 p.m. (5:15 p.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with representatives of ASEAN Youth. The ASEAN Leaders' Informal Meeting with Youth Representatives is an important dialogue for the exchange of views between ASEAN Leaders and the future leaders of the region.

4:30 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Manila Time) – The President attended the Closing Session of the 24th ASEAN Summit.

President Benigno S. Aquino III, during the 24th ASEAN Summit Closing Ceremony. — May 11, 2014. Photo by the Malacañang Photo Bureau

5:15 p.m. (6:45 p.m., Manila Time) – The President will attend the 10th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit. This annual meeting aims to discuss developments on initiatives for the sub-region and guide Ministers and stakeholders in pursuing definitive actions to further strengthen the sub-regional cooperation.

6:20 p.m. (7:50 p.m., Manila Time) – The President attended the Coffee Meeting with Philippine Media.

President Benigno S. Aquino III, during the meeting with the Philippine media at the sidelines of the 24th ASEAN Summit. — May 11, 2014. Photo by the Malacañang Photo Bureau

7:45 p.m. (9:00 PM Manila Time) – The President departed Myanmar for Manila.

President's Day: May 14, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Bishop Jean Laffitte at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) at the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: May 15, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Negros Occidental to unveil two of the national government's projects in the province.

At 10:00 a.m., the President inaugurated of Phase I of the San Carlos Solar Energy (SACASOL) Power Plant—the first large-scale commercially-financed and commissioned solar power plant in the Philippines under the Aquino administration—in the City of San Carlos.

Read President Aquino's speech at the inauguration of the SACASOL Power Plant:<http://www.gov.ph/2014/05/15/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-inauguration-of-san-carlos-solar-energy-inc-phase-i/>

At 11:35 a.m., the President led the opening of the P313-million New Himoga-an Bridge and Access Road in the City of Sagay.

Read President Aquino's speech at the inauguration of the New Himoga-an Bridge and Access Road:<http://www.gov.ph/2014/05/15/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-inauguration-of-the-new-himoga-an-bridge-and-access-road/>

President's Day: May 16, 2014

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over a meeting on post-Typhoon Yolanda recovery and rehabilitation efforts at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace. At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and other government officials at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: May 19, 2014

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III became the guest of honor at the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)–Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) International Conference on Tourism and Climate Change, held at The Oriental Hotel in Legazpi City, Albay.

Read President Aquino's speech at the UNWTO-ASEAN International Conference on Tourism and Climate Change: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/05/19/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-unwto-asean-international-conference-on-tourism-and-climate-change/>

At 11:10 a.m., the President went to the Bicol University in Daraga, Albay to inaugurate Phases 1 and 2 of the Bicol University Health Sciences (BUHS) Building, and launch the university's Doctor of Medicine–Master in Public Administration (MD-MPA) Program.

Read President Aquino's speech at the unveiling of the Bicol University's Health Sciences Building, and the Doctor of Medicine–Master in Public Administration Program: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/05/19/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-inauguration-of-the-bicol-university-health-sciences-buildings-and-launch-of-md-mpa-program/>

President's Day: May 22, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was interviewed by Bloomberg in the Music Room in Malacañan.

Later at 3:00 p.m., the President gave the opening remarks at the opening plenary of the World Economic Forum on East Asia, in Makati Shangri-la.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8r_EIGcKyE[/youtube]

Read the full speech here.

Then at 6:30 p.m., the President received Professor Klaus Schwab and WEF co-chairs for a courtesy call at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Finally at 7:30 p.m., President Aquino attended the welcome dinner of the 23rd WEF-EA, where he delivered a speech.

President's Day: May 26, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the president met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Budget and Finance in the Blue Room in Malacañan.

At 3:00 p.m., President Aquino then met with the Chief Presidential Legal Council back in the Private Office.

President's Day: May 27, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor during the 116th anniversary of the Philippine Navy. President Aquino delivered the following speech:<http://www.gov.ph/2014/05/27/speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-116th-anniversary-of-the-philippine-navy/>

President's Day: May 21, 2014

Today, at 10:00 a.m., The President met with the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Justice in the Conference Room.

At 1:00 p.m., the president was interviewed by the Economist in the Music Room in Malacañan.

At 2:00 p.m., the President received the ASEAN Business Club for a courtesy call in the Reception Hall.

At 4:00 p.m., the President met with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

President's Day: May 28, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Agrarian Reform at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan

At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Secretary of Finance and the Executive Secretary in the Private Office.

Later at 2:30 p.m., the president had a video-message shoot for the Philippine Embassy Washington D.C. benefit concert for typhoon Haiyan Victims and for the Philippine Retail Investment Corp in the Rizal Hall.

President's Day: May 29, 2014

Today, at 2:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III convened the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, composed of cabinet secretaries and other government officials, in Malacañan Palace. In this meeting, various projects were approved. Read the full listing of the green-lit projects [here](#).

President's Day: May 30, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received the Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) Board of Directors for a courtesy call at Malacañan Palace. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had another meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room.

At 5:00 p.m., the President attended the Oreta-Sison nuptials.

President's Day: June 2, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m. President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, Chief Presidential Legal Council, and Secretary Pangilinan, who is the newly appointed Presidential Assistant to Food Security and Agricultural Modernization in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Then at 1:30 p.m., the president received Stephen Huang, Director of Global Coordination, and the Buddhist Compassion Relief TzuChi Foundation for a courtesy call in the Music Room.

At 2:30 p.m. – the President met with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry back in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: June 3, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received the 2013 Ten Outstanding Police Women for a courtesy call for a courtesy call. The President delivered a speech commending the bravery of these women who have stepped-up in the face of danger, such as armed criminals and typhoon Yolanda. This was held in the President's Hall in Malacañan. youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BGwFImcOQM[/youtube]

Read the full transcript of his speech [here](#).

Later at 11:00 a.m., the president had a meeting with Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Emmanuel Bautista in the Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with officials from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

President's Day: June 4, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker for a courtesy call in the receiving area of the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace. Afterwards, the president met with the US ASEAN Business Delegation in the Reception Hall. And then, the president met with the Applied Energy Services (AES) CEO / President Andres Gluski in the Music Room for another courtesy call. Finally, at 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Finance in the Study Conference Room.

President's Day: June 5, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received Kristalina Georgieva, European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid, and Crisis Response, for a courtesy call at the South Ballroom of the Diamond Hotel in Manila. Shortly after the meeting, the President attended the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at the North Center Ballroom of the Diamond Hotel, where he delivered a speech on the lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

Watch President Aquino's speech during the ASEM Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management:

[youtube]http://http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_a-tpXxzgM[/youtube]

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform at the Study Conference Room of the Malacañan Palace.

President's Day: June 6, 2014 Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Cabinet Secretary, the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and other officials in the Private Office in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Justice. They held the meeting in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

At 2:30 p.m., the President held another meeting with the Executive Secretary, the Department of Justice, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also at the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: June 9, 2014

Today was Dividends Day. At 10:00 a.m., president Benigno S. Aquino III in a ceremony received on behalf of the National Treasury dividends checks from various government owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs). He delivered the following speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hnfKb1eh24>[/youtube]

Read the full transcript of the President's speech **here**.

Later at 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

At 3:00 p.m. the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Council, at his Private Office.

The President's Day: June 10, 2014

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III accepted the credentials of ten non-resident ambassadors-designate: Ambassador Thomas Kijiner of the Marshall Islands, Ambassador Betty Grace Akech-Okullo of the Republic of Uganda, Ambassador Senkoun Sylla of the Republic of Guinea, Ambassador Pantelakis Eliades of the Republic of Cyprus, Ambassador Clifford Borg-Marks of Malta, Ambassador Andres Unga of the Republic of Estonia, Ambassador Michal Slivovic of Slovakia, Ambassador Raisa Vardanyan of the Republic of Armenia, Ambassador Hannes Heimisson of Iceland, and Ambassador Clement Philip Ricardo Allicock of Jamaica. The ceremonies were held in Malacañan Palace. The President delivered remarks. At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management at the Private Office.

At 2:00 p.m., the President attended a briefing by the Department of Agrarian Reform, which was held at President's Hall.

At 7:00 p.m., President Aquino celebrated the 13th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day with the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.

The President's Day: June 11, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff and the office of the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with his speechwriters at the Private Office.

The President's Day: June 12, 2014

Today at around 8:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech commemorating the 116th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence from Spain. The ceremonies were held in Naga City, Camarines Sur. The President was in Naga to honor the 15 Bicolano Martyrs as exemplars of the struggle for freedom, and as a reminder that the sweat and hard work that brought our country to where it is today came from all over the country.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb91X6ljjQs>[/youtube]

The 2014 Independence Day celebrations are part of a series of annual pilgrimages the president makes to different parts of the country where the revolution was also fought. In 2011, the President launched the commemoration of the 113th anniversary of the proclamation of independence in Kawit, Cavite—where the Philippine flag was first waved before its people, and the national anthem first played. In 2012, the President headed the ceremonies from the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan—the venue of the Malolos Congress, which had drafted the Constitution of our First Republic.

Later at 10:30 a.m., celebrating with the Diplomatic Corps. the President gave a toast during the Independence Day Vin D'Honneur in Malacañan. He toasted to friends, partners, government workers, and to the resilience of the Filipino people.

The President's Day: June 16, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III held several meetings with various officials at the Study Conference Room.

At 10:00 a.m., with the Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and the Secretary of Finance.

At 1:00 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Finance (DOF), and the Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs).

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Department of Transportation and Communications.

The President's Day: June 17, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa , Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Benjamin Caguiao, and officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Justice at the Study Conference Room.

At 1:30 p.m., President Aquino met with Secretary Ochoa and officials from the Department of Energy at the Private Office.

At 2:30 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Executive Secretary in the same venue.

The President's Day: June 18, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials of the Commission on Human Rights and National Historical Commission of the Philippines in the private office in Malacañan.

Later at 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Budget and Management also in the Private Office.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Study Conference Room, also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: June 19, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) board meeting in the Aguinaldo State dining room.

The NEDA board approved three infrastructure projects amounting to P139.77 billion.

The President's Day: June 20, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office of Malacañan Palace.

Later that day, at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the National Security Advisor, and officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Study Conference Room in the Palace.

Afterwards, at 3:00 p.m., the President had another meeting, with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel.

The President's Day: June 24, 2014

The President went on a one-day working visit to Japan today. He met with the Japanese Prime Minister, and spoke at the Consolidation for Peace for Mindanao conference held in Hiroshima. The following is a rundown of his activities.

6:00 a.m. – President Benigno S. Aquino departed Manila for Tokyo, Japan, via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001. The President delivered [this statement](#) before his visit to Japan.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIRhOALz1S4>[/youtube]

11:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. Manila Time) – The President arrived at the Tokyo Haneda International Airport.

11:40 a.m. (10:40 a.m. Manila Time) – The President met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He joined the Prime Minister for a summit meeting at the lounge of the Prime Minister's residence.

12:00 p.m. (11:00 a.m. Manila Time) – The President joined the Prime Minister for a working lunch at the Japanese Room of the Prime Minister's residence. 1:10 p.m. (12:10 p.m. Manila Time) – The President gave a joint press conference with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Large Hall of the Prime Minister's residence.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zA4ucqKaCzM&list=UU46YJ9p0d6MSUXRZFRZrwGQ>[/youtube]

Read the President's full statement [**here**](#).

2:15 p.m. (1:15 p.m. Manila Time) – The President left Tokyo Haneda International Airport for Hiroshima International Airport via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001.

2:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. Manila Time) – Onboard PR001, the President met with the Philippine media.

3:35 p.m. (2:35 p.m. Manila Time) – The President arrived at the Hiroshima International Airport.

5:22 p.m. (4:22 p.m. Manila Time) – The President met Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki of Hiroshima at the Sheraton Hiroshima Hotel.

5:30 p.m. (4:30 p.m. Manila Time) – The President gave the keynote address at the Consolidation for Peace for Mindanao conference at the Minami Function Room of the Sheraton Hiroshima Hotel.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un6PxS5A9BQ>[/youtube]

Read the full speech [**here**](#).

6:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. Manila Time) – The President laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Afterwards, he went on a tour of the museum.

9:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. Manila Time) – The President left Hiroshima International Airport for Manila via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001.

12:15 a.m. June 25, 2014 – The President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Terminal 2, where he delivered a statement to recap the trip.

The President's Day: June 25, 2014

Today at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

Later at 7:00 p.m., the President attended a silver tie gala event celebrating the 25 anniversary of Megaworld, titled: "Building Visions for 25 Years," where he delivered a speech. It was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Pasay.

The President's Day: June 26, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room.

At 1:00 p.m., President Aquino administered the oath of the newly elected officers of the National Press Club, during an induction ceremony held at the Reception Hall of Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Agriculture and Secretary Pangilinan at the Study Conference Room.

At 7:00 p.m., President Aquino attended the 123rd founding anniversary of the Philippine Bar Association at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. As the guest of honor, he also delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIvdHHuBTN0>[/youtube]

The President's Day: June 30, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the private office in Malacañan Palace.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President had another meeting, this time with Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force and the Secretary of National Defense in the Study Conference Room.

At 3:00 p.m., President Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room, also in Malacañan.

The President's Day: July 1, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 67th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) at Clark Air Base in Pampanga. He delivered a speech commending the work of the PAF through the years.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21qvZTzyF4Q>[/youtube]

Afterwards, the President answered questions from the media during an interview.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXgJnXZkB9s>[/youtube]

Watch the full event:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0j2hvyduTM>[/youtube]

The President's Day: July 2, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards, at 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Secretary of National Defense (SND) and the Secretary of Budget and Management also in the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: July 3, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, the Presidential Management Staff, and officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary in the Blue Room in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the president had a meeting with the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Trade and Industry, again in the Blue Room of Malacañan.

The President's Day: July 4, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Secretary to the Cabinet Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards, at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and the Presidential Management Staff, in the Blue Room.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President met with his speechwriters in the Private Office.

The President's Day: July 7, 2014

President Benigno S. Aquino III had three meetings in the Palace today.

At 10:00 a.m., he had a meeting with officials from Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting in the Study Conference Room regarding proposed venues for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings.

Finally at 1:30 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

The President's Day: July 8, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Caguioa in the Private Office in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Secretary of the Department of Energy Jericho Petilla, also in the Private Office.

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ATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

The President’s Day: July 9, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Transportation and Communications, and the Department of Finance in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, the Department of Transportation and Communication, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Finance, and the National Economic Development Authority also in the Study Conference Room.

That evening, at 6:30 p.m., the president attended “Voyage: The Marco Polo Ortigas Manila Grand Launch Affair” in Pasig City. There he delivered this speech:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9suXGhkgEc>[/youtube]

Read the full transcript **here**.

In the course of the day, between his scheduled meetings, the president also met with the Presidential Spokesperson.

The President's Day: July 10, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, and officials from the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Justice in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Later 1:30 p.m., the President recorded a video message at the Rizal Hall.

At 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

The President's Day: July 11, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., president Benigno S. Aquino III convened his Cabinet to discuss the 2015 budget.

The Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process began the meeting with a prayer.

As meeting opened, the President delivered a brief statement, in which he discussed a letter sent to him by the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management:

“Yesterday, Secretary Abad gave me a letter tendering his resignation from the Cabinet and I have considered the same, and I have decided not to accept his resignation and let me explain why. The notion in the current atmosphere is DAP [the Disbursement Acceleration Program] was bad for our people. Even our most vociferous critics grant that DAP has benefited our people. To accept his resignation is to assign to him a wrong, and I cannot accept the notion that doing right by our people is a wrong. Therefore I have decided not to accept his resignation, and I think the whole Cabinet should be made aware of this.”

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qh0zMV8axng>[/youtube]

Read the full opening remarks **here**.

The budget presentation is a meeting wherein the different departments of government rationalize to the Cabinet their projected budget for the coming budget year. Such meetings have been known to last for as long as 12 hours.

In the course of the day, between his scheduled meetings, the president also met with the Presidential Spokesperson.

The President's Day: July 14, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, and officials from the Department of Finance in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room.

Later at 6:00 p.m., he had a press briefing in the President's Hall where he addressed the nation regarding the Disbursement Acceleration Program, otherwise known as DAP.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RNEWsi6bzs>[/youtube]

The President's Day: July 15, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino received Jim Y. Kim, president of the World Bank Group (WBG), for courtesy call held in the President's Hall in Malacañan.

At 11:00 a.m., the President attended the Daylight Dialogue, a gathering of various members of civil society, the academe, media, international development organizations, and the private sector to discuss the progress and outlook of the Aquino administration's governance initiatives. It was held in the Heroes Hall.

WB president Jim Y. Kim delivered the following talk during the Daylight Dialogue:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7SNxkfpI7w&>[/youtube]

The President gave the following keynote address:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJbRFauAnkg&>[/youtube]

Read the full speech **here**.

At 12:30 p.m., the President attended a luncheon for the WBG President. At the luncheon, the president gave a **toast** in honor of Jim Y. Kim.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW3jb2JbAbo/>[/youtube]

At 3:00 p.m., he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office in Malacañan.

At around 4:45 p.m. the President led a meeting at the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, in order to plan for the coming storm, Glenda.

The President's Day: July 16, 2014

President Benigno S. Aquino III's schedule for today was cancelled. The President monitored typhoon Glenda.

The President's Day: July 17, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the opening ceremony of the Asian Defense, Security, and Crisis Management Exhibition and Conference (ADAS 2014) at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. At the event, the president delivered a **speech**.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6pKULh1jw0&index=4&>[/youtube]

This is the first ADAS conference to be held in the country. The ADAS 2014 is envisioned to afford all participating countries the opportunity for various interactions to realize their urgent requirements for defense, security, peace and order, disaster readiness, and crisis management, among others.

President Aquino, in his speech, acknowledged the significance of holding the trade show and conference in the country, to the benefit the uniformed men and women of the armed forces of the Philippines.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Justice, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at his Private Office in Malacañan.

The President's Day: July 21, 2014

Today at 8:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the inauguration of Ciudad de Victoria in Bocaue, Bulacan. At the event, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQCNzooyNLU>[/youtube]

At 1:30 p.m., the President received the Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan, in the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Office of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Study Conference room also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: July 22, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards, at 11:00 a.m., the President had another meeting, this time with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa also in the Private Office.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting concerning the power situation in the Study Conference Room.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and officials from Department of Tourism in the Study Conference Room also in the Palace.

The President's Day: July 23, 2014

oday at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Apolinario Mabini held at the Apolinario Mabini Shrine in Tanauan City, Batangas. The president delivered a speech at the event.

[youtube]<http://youtu.be/XKCS1T5Auck?t=34m7s>[/youtube]

The President's Day: July 24, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting regarding the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

Later that day, at 2:00 p.m. the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: July 25, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Later at 2:00 p.m., the President held a meeting regarding his speech for the State of the Nation Address (SONA) also in the Private Office.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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The President’s Day: July 30, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Later at 11:00 a.m., the President had another meeting. This meeting was attended by Secretary Ochoa., the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, and the Secretary of Finance Cesar Purisima in the Study Conference Room.

Finally at 1:30 p.m., the President met again with the Executive Secretary, and officials from the Department of Finance, the National Economic Development Authority, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and the Department of Energy in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: July 31, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the officials from Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Department of Budget and Management in the Blue Room of the Palace.

Finally 3:00 p.m., the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

The President's Day: August 1, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a mass commemorating the 5th death anniversary of Corazon Aquino at the Manila Memorial Park. Later at 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary in the Private Office in Malacañan.

The President's Day: August 4, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañang Palace.

Later at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting regarding the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in the Study Conference Room.

Afterward at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the officials of Department Budget and Management in the Private Office.

Finally at 5:00 p.m., he attended a Special Commemorative Photo Exhibit of President Corazon Aquino at the Glorietta Activity Center where he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: August 5, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary, officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Cabinet Secretary in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward at 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Tourism in the Study Conference Room.

At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Department of Transportation and Communications in the same venue.

In the course of the day, between his scheduled meetings, the President also met with Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, the Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, and Undersecretary Manuel Quezon III.

The President's Day: August 6, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff, Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also in the Private Office.

Finally at 1:00 p.m., the President attended a meeting on Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation also in Malacañan.

The President's Day: August 7, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the Farewell Call of the Ambassador Of New Zealand, held in the Music Room in Malacañan.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Operations (GCG) in the Study Conference room in Malacañan.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President attended the premiere of Rescue in the Phils: Refuge from the Holocaust, a documentary film about Jewish refugees in the Philippines during World War 2, at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan. At the premiere, the President delivered a speech pointing to the shared history of generosity between the two cultures:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btobG5cRO0M>[/youtube]

The President's Day: August 8, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 113th Police Service Anniversary in Camp Crame, Quezon City. At the event, the president delivered a speech. [Read the full transcript](#)At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Private Office in Malacañan.

Finally at 4:00 p.m. the President received the US Congressional Delegation for a courtesy call at the President's Hall in Malacañan.

The President's Day: August 11, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the oath taking of the AFP Chief of Staff in the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting regard the reduction of port charges in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Finally at 1:30 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, and the Presidential Management Staff also in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: August 12, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the conferment ceremony of Dr. Gavino Trono, Dr. Angel Alcala and Dr. Ramon Barba for the Order of National Scientist in the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward at 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget and Management, the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Environment and Natural Resource, and the Department of Interior and Local Government in the Study Conference Room also in the Palace.

The President's Day: August 13, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and the Presidential Management Staff in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

Afterwards at 1:30 p.m., the President was interviewed by Mel Sta. Maria of TV5 at the receiving area of the President's Hall in Malacañan.

Finally at 3:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Open Academy of Philippine Agriculture (OPAPA) in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: August 14, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Ceremonial Distribution of Assault Rifles to the Philippine Army and Philippine Navy in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. At the event, the President gave a speech. [youtube]<http://youtu.be/ES0mQ134dPo?t=23m1s>[/youtube]

Read the full speech **here**.

Afterwards at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Department of Interior and Local Government and The Department of Budget and Management in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan.

Finally at around 3:30 p.m., the President met with the principals of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office in Malacañan.

President's Day: August 15, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) at the President's Hall.

At 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from DFA and the Commission on Higher Education at the Study Conference Room.

At 1:30 p.m, President Aquino met with officials from the Department of Science Technology at the President's Hall.

President's Day: August 18, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III paid a visit to the Our Lady of Piat Basilica Menore in Piat, Cagayan at 10:00 a.m.

The President's Day: August 19, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino had a meeting with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, and again with the Department of Transportation and Communications in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of National Defence, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Study Conference room also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 20, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the oath-taking of newly appointed officers of the Philippine National Police in the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. Afterward at 10:30 a.m., the President received Governor Corazon Nuñez-Malayaon for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government in the Private Office also in the Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President attended a briefing with regard to his **trip to Europe**. The briefing was held in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 21, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a Mass dedicated to the late Benigno S. Aquino Jr. (Ninoy) and Jose Cojuangco (Lolo Pepe) in Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The President's Day: August 22, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III held a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President held a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President met with his speechwriters also in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: August 25, 2014

Today at 8:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the National Heroes Day celebrations in Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The President led the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies, and delivered a **speech**.

The President's Day: August 26, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe for a farewell call in the Music Room in Malacañan. The President, during the courtesy call, conferred the **Order of Sikatuna** to the Ambassador. Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President received Mr. Peter Maurer, the President of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also in the Music Room. At 1:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Agriculture in the Study Conference Room.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Department of Budget and Management in the Private Office.

The President's Day: August 27, 2014

Today at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was interviewed by Bombo Radyo in the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. Watch the full interview here:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dArU8Ay35Ik>[/youtube]

Read the full transcript **here**.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting on National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Appointments in the Private Office.

Finally at 3:30 p.m., the President had a meeting on the port congestion issue in the Study Conference Room also in the Palace.

The President's Day: September 1, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the launch of the **Ligtas sa Tigdas at Polio** mass immunization campaign at the Department of Health (DOH) convention center. Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President led the oath-taking of appointed officials of the National Peace and Order Council at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 2, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs in the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Study Conference Room, also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 3, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President attended the oath-taking ceremony of the officers of the Foreign Chamber Council of the Philippines. The event was held in the President's Hall of the Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Secretary of Energy in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 7:00 p.m., the President attended the 13th Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Rizal Grand Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. At the event, the president delivered a **speech**.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMANvG58HAW>[/youtube]

The President's Day: September 4, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Energy Development Corporation in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process also in the President's Hall.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President shot a video message in the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 8, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) Mindanao Membership launch of the Mindanao Inclusive Agribusiness (MIA) Program. The event was held at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier, Davao City. The event aimed to rally PBSP members and other Mindanao companies around the idea of inclusive business, specifically to support PBSP's MIAP on priority industries: coffee, cacao, corn, palm oil and rubber.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyrvt6qcKKo>[/youtube]

The President's Day: September 9, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the Department Foreign Affairs with regard to his **trip to Europe**, specifically his working visit to the European Union and Belgium, and his official visit to France and Germany. This meeting was held in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:30 p.m., the President received the board of directors of the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the heads of delegations from the Federation of Asia-Pacific Retailers Associations (FARPA) for a courtesy call in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spbAPKRH7kM>[/youtube]

During the courtesy call, the President delivered a **speech**.

Afterwards at 3:30 p.m., the President held meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 6:00 p.m., the President attended the 1st ASEAN Business Awards held in the New World Hotel.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWWxkZm6qf8>[/youtube]

At the awarding, the President delivered a **speech**.

The President's Day: September 10, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III bore witness to the turning over of the **Draft of the Bangsamoro Basic Law** to the Congress. This was held in the Rizal Hall of the Malacañan Palace. The Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles, recognized the event as a turning point in the nation's quest for peace in Mindanao. During the ceremony, President Benigno S. Aquino III, in a speech, asked Congress to "pass this bill in the soonest possible time."

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeUJ6mSeBrQ>[/youtube]

Afterward at 1:30 p.m., the President accepted the credentials of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Philippines Jaroslav Olsa, Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Philippines Dr. Gamini Samaranayake, and Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines Luis Antonio Calvo in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President attended a briefing on the Mono Rail Transit (MRT) in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Agriculture in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 11, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Pagbilao III Power Plant project launch, which was held in Fairmont, Makati. The President underscored the importance of energy reform in a **speech** he delivered at the event.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJQ4qoLHImg>[/youtube]

Afterwards at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Trade and Industry in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government also in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 13, 2014

At 9:50 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III boarded the Philippine Airlines Flight PR001, bound for Madrid, Spain, as he begins the European leg of his official visits this September 2014. [Read the President's departure statement before his trip to Europe and the United States.](#) The President will be making a visit to Spain, Belgium, France, and Germany to pitch for investments as well as to thank our partners abroad for their overwhelming support after the onslaught of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

The President's Day: September 14, 2014

At around 7:30 a.m., (1:30 p.m., Manila time), President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived at the Torrejon Airbase in Madrid, Spain—the first stop of his European official visits. Keep track of the President's trip on govph. President Aquino met with former Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar at the Intercontinental Hotel to discuss economic relations and other issues.

Afterwards, the President attended a meeting with the organizers of Madrid Fusión—an annual international gastronomy gathering held in Madrid, Spain since 2003. The Philippines is set to host Madrid Fusión-Manila in April 2015 to help establish the country as a focal point of gastronomic interest worldwide. The President also witnessed the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Tourism and Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior (ICEX, or the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade) for the conduct of Madrid Fusión-Manila.

In the afternoon, President Aquino, together with Councilor Isabel Martinez-Cubells Representative Ayuntamiento de Madrid, led the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal monument located in Madrid.

Afterwards, the President attended a series of business meetings. The President was accompanied by Secretary of Transportation Joseph A. Abaya, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, Secretary of Agriculture Proceso Alcala, Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, and Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma. President Aquino met with CEO Luis Castilla Camara of Acciona, a company engaged in the development and management of infrastructure, renewable energy, water, services, and logistics and transport, and has businesses in financial services, real estate, and wine production. He then met with Abengoa—a Spanish multi-national corporation in the domains of energy, telecommunications, transportation, and the environment.

The President met with Indra Sistemas, a consulting and technology company, specializing in Information Technology solutions services covering both the private and public sector.

He also met with Globalvia Executive President Javier Perez Portea. Globalvia, a Spanish construction company, and Bankia, a Spanish banking conglomerate, to consolidate controlling interests in PPP projects in which the companies have a stake. Globalvia manages 22 toll highways, eight railroads, one airport, and two hospitals, seaports, and marinas. The President had a business meeting with Grupo Actividades de Construcción y Servicios (ACS), a company whose businesses are divided into the following: (1) construction, which covers civil works projects, buildings and projects related to mining; (2) industrial services, which cover development, construction, maintenance and operation of energy, industrial, and mobility infrastructures; and (3) environment. President Aquino met with Ineco, a company that provides engineering and consultancy services in transport covering aviation (including air transport, airports, and air navigation), railways, roads, urban transport, and ports. He also met with Calidad Pascual, a family-owned dairy company that manufactures and markets more than 200 dairy products, fruit juices, and desserts.

The President then dropped by the Networking with the Philippine Business Delegation event where he delivered the following remarks.

The President's Day: September 15, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III traveled from Madrid, Spain, to Brussels, Belgium. The President's trip was part of At around 9:00 a.m. (3:00 p.m., Manila time) the President arrived at the Palacio de la Moncla for a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mariano Rajoy, Prime Minister of Spain. The Spain's Disaster-Related Assistance to the Philippines, economic issues, and agreements were discussed.

All photos by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.

At 11:40 p.m. (5:00 p.m., Manila time) the President departed Madrid, Spain from Torrejon Airbase.

At 2:05 p.m. (8:05 p.m., Manila time) the President arrived in Brussels, Belgium at the Brussels International Airport.

At 3:00 p.m. (9:00 p.m., Manila time) the President met with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso at the European Commission Headquarters. There they discussed the Philippine-EU cooperation and bilateral relations.

At 3:35 p.m. (9:35 p.m., Manila time) the President held a joint press conference with European Commission President Barroso and delivered a press statement.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7UzUs8jBXg>[/youtube]

At 4:00 p.m. (10:00 p.m., Manila time) the President had an audience with His Majesty King Philippe at the Royal Palace. They discussed Belgium's assistance with post-Haiyan rehabilitation and Philippine-Belgium historical relations.

At 6:30 p.m. (12:30 a.m., Manila time) the President **addressed the Filipino Community** in Belgium and Luxembourg at the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula. There are an estimated 6,583 Filipinos in Belgium and 436 Filipinos in Luxembourg, and 68 registered Filipino community organizations.

The President's Day: September 16, 2014.

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Brussels, Belgium, as part a series of officials visits around Europe.

In the morning, the President met with European Council President Herman van Rompuy, where he delivered the following press statement: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/09/16/statement-of-president-aquino-meeting-president-european-council-brussels/>

Later in the day, the President met with Belgium Prime Minister Elio di Rupo. In the afternoon, the President attended the Conference on Public-Private Partnership Program for Infrastructure Projects in the Republic of the Philippines. The event was jointly organized by the PPP Center, DTI, Embassy of the Philippines in Belgium, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBRES), and friends of Europe. Read his remarks [here](#). Later on, the President attended a series of business meetings:

President Aquino met with officials of the Royal Dutch Shell PLC. Headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, with a registered office in London, United Kingdom, Royal Dutch Shell PLC is active in oil and gas exploration and production, refining, distribution and marketing, petrochemicals and trading.

The President met with officials of HSBC Holdings PLC. Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, HSBC Holdings PLC is a multinational banking and financial services company.

The President also met with officials of Asia House. Asia House is a non-profit, non-political, pan-Asian organization founded in 1996 in the United Kingdom, which aims to build dynamic links between the diverse communities of Europe and Asia.

In the late afternoon, the President was interviewed by Mr. Konstantinos Tsapogas, Managing Editor of New Europe. New Europe is an independent, weekly published English-language newspaper based in Brussels, Belgium that covers news on the European Union, including country-specific reports of the member states, candidate countries, or possible future candidates.

In the evening, President Aquino delivered a speech at Egmont – The Royal Institute for International Relations. The Egmont Institute is an independent think-tank based in Brussels, Belgium that undertakes interdisciplinary research on international relations. Read his policy speech: <http://www.gov.ph/2014/09/16/policy-speech-of-president-aquino-at-the-50th-anniversary-of-ph-eu-relations/>

The President's Day: September 17, 2014

The President's Day: September 17, 2014

On this day, President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived in Paris, France, via the Orly International Airport. This visit to Paris was part of a series of official trips around Europe. In the morning, the President was given military honors, after which he laid a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe. The Arc was built between 1806 and 1836 in honor of those who fought for France. Afterwards, the President attended a bilateral meeting with President François Hollande at the Elysee Palace. They discussed cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. From the meeting, the President attended the signing of agreements. A working lunch immediately followed where they continued to discuss economic and cultural cooperation between the Philippines and France. The lunch was hosted by President Hollande.

A little later, the President and President Hollande delivered press statements.

Later that day, the President attended a business meeting with Airbus. Their presence in the Philippines includes the subsidiary Airbus Helicopters Philippines, Inc., technical assistance for CAAP, and the providing of aircrafts for Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, and Philippines AirAsia.

A business meeting followed, between the President and Schneider Electric. Schneider Electric opened a representative office in the Philippines in 1995, established a manufacturing site in 1996, and currently employs over 2,600 employees in the country.

Another business meeting was held, this time the President met with Teleperformance. Teleperformance was established in 1996 as one of the pioneer contact centers within the Philippines and is among the largest employers in the country with around 24,000 personnel.

Afterwards, the President attend a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Manuel Valls at the Hotel Matignon. They discussed the Filipino community in France and developments in the Philippine economy.

In the evening, the President met with the Filipino Community at the Chapelle Sainte Bernadette. The General Assembly of Philippine Associations in France consists of around 50 active associations. There, he delivered a speech.

Finally, the President attended a fellowship dinner with the Philippine business delegation at Port Debilly.

The President's Day: September 18, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Paris, France, as part of a series of official visits to Europe.

In the morning, the President met with top Filipino and French CEOs participating in the Philippines-France Business Leaders' Roundtable. The Roundtable provided a venue for the discussion of various business opportunities between select French and Filipino business leaders.

Afterwards the President delivered a speech during the Philippine Business Opportunities Forum. The Forum showcased various trade and investment opportunities available to French businessmen.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlpejiGRYeU>[/youtube]

The President then attended a business meeting with the Ayala Group, Bouygues Construction, and Alstom, followed by another meeting with the Ayala Group and Egis Group.

At around midday, the President held an interview with various French media organizations, such as Le Figaro, Le Monde, and Les Echos. In the interviews the president talked about economic issues and trade relations between the Philippines and France, as well as the situation in the West Philippine Sea.

Later in the day, the President visited the Dassault Systems Facility (3DS). During the visit, the President toured the 3DS Paris Campus and witnessed simulations on urban planning and disaster risk reduction.

In the evening, the President was briefed on the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI) Forum by Mr. Thierry de Montbrial, founder and President of IFRI. He delivered a speech as well as answered questions from the audience after the forum.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7Een5A4rS8>[/youtube]

Finally the President toured the Louvre Museum.

The President's Day: September 19, 2014

Early in the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the departure ceremony at the Orly International Airport in Paris, France. He departed Paris, France for Berlin, Germany via Philippine Airlines Flight PR001, thus ending his official visit to the French Republic. These trips are part of a series of official visits around Europe.

All photos by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.

A few hours later, the President arrived at the Berlin Tegel Airport in Berlin, Germany. He then attended the welcome ceremony and was accorded Military Honors.

Afterwards the President attended the arrival honors at the Federal Chancellery. The Federal Chancellery building is the official residence of Germany's Chancellor (Prime Minister).

There, the President attended a working lunch hosted in his honor by German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel at the Federal Chancellery.

Afterwards, the President attended a press conference with German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQUoqS8Naac>[/youtube]

Later, the President met with German Federal President Joachim Gauck at the Schloss Bellevue. The Schloss Bellevue is the Presidential Palace and Official Residence of Germany's Federal President. The President then met with officials of SAP SE. SAP SE provides business management software to more than 261,000 customers in 190 countries. It is the world's third largest software company next to Microsoft and Oracle.

In the late afternoon the President delivered a speech at the Policy Forum organized with Koerber Stiftung (or Koerber Foundation) and Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA). The Koerber Foundation, which was established in 1959, is known for its regular conduct of dialogues, project grants and award programs for the promotion of German and European foreign policy (particularly in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East), education, science, civil welfare, and music. The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business voices the concerns of German businesses to policy-makers in Germany and the Asia-Pacific region through summits and country visit exchanges.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSrBJ7Xl1ho>[/youtube]

Early in the evening, the President witnessed the ceremonial signing of the Supply and Install Agreement for QualiMed Projects between Mercado General Hospital, Inc. (MGHI) and Siemens, Inc. Philippines.

Afterwards, Mr. Marcus Wallenberg of Investor AB paid a courtesy call on the President. Investor AB is a Swedish investment company founded in 1916.

The President then attended the Meeting with the Filipino Community in Berlin. There, he delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtRhoH74OlA>[/youtube]

Finally, the President met with the Philippine Media.

The President Day: September 20, 2014

In the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived at the new chancery of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin. There, he witnessed the contract signing for the purchase of the new chancery of the Philippine Embassy.

Later, the President was awarded the Freedom Medal by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). The FNF Freedom Medal, first awarded in 2006, is presented to outstanding political figures dedicated to uphold freedom, democracy, human rights, and market economy. During the ceremony he delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zakmTuU7JTw>[/youtube]

Before lunch, the President was interviewed by Mr. Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, and Mr. Peter Sturm, Political Editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ).

In the late afternoon, the President visited the Berlin Wall.

In the evening, the President was sent-off through a departure ceremony with military honors. The President then departed Berlin for Boston via Philippine Airlines flight PR 001, at around 6:30 p.m. He later arrived at the Boston Logan International Airport.

The President's Day: September 21, 2014

At around 9:30 p.m. yesterday, President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived in Boston, through the Boston Logan International Airport. This ended a series of official visits around Europe, and began his official agenda in the United States of America.

Early in the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended private meetings.

At midday, the President had a private lunch with family friends.

Afterwards, the President attended a special mass that was held at the St. Ignatius Church, Boston College Campus.

The President, still in the Boston College Campus, attended the convocation where the recipients of the Benigno and Corazon Aquino Scholarship were presented.

Finally, the President attended the reception meeting with the Filipino community also held in the campus. There he delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEH8KaWTdz4>[/youtube]

The President's Day: September 22, 2014 Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Boston as part of his official visit to the United States of America.

All photo by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.

In the morning, the President met with Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III.

Mid-afternoon, the President granted a media interview to Jeremy Hobson. Mr. Hobson is the co-host of Boston's National Public Radio station, WBUR.

The President then delivered a policy speech at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. The KSG was established in 1936 as the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration and renamed in 1966 as a tribute to John F. Kennedy, former president of the United States.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj3pNJ8LMCI>[/youtube]

In the evening, the President departed Boston for New York City via Logan International Airport.

President's Month in Review: September 23-30, 2014

President's Month in Review: October 1-22, 2014

The President's Day: October 23, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received representatives from the Japan External Trade Operations (JETRO) for a courtesy call in the Music Room in Malacañang Palace. JETRO is a government-related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President received the Chairman of GMR Group of Companies for a courtesy call also in the Music Room. The GMR Group is an infrastructural company with interests in airports, and the energy and urban infrastructure sectors. It was founded in 1978. Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and officials from the Department of Budget and Management in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 24, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 40th Philippines Business Conference and Expo. During the closing ceremony, the President delivered a speech calling private businesses to work together with the Filipino people to not only “sustain, but speed up progress for the country: progress that promises success.” The event was held in the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel. Afterwards at 2:00 p.m., the President received Mr. Keiichiro Hashimoto and Mr. Keigo Iue of Shioya Tochi for a courtesy call in the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. Finally at 5:00 p.m., the President attended the 36th Anniversary of the Jesus is Lord Church, held in the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. At the event, the President delivered a speech.

The President's Day: October 27, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received outgoing United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Luiza Carvalho for a farewell call in the Music Room in Malacañan Palace, during which she was conferred the Order of Lakandula with rank of Grand Officer. Afterward at 11:00 a.m. the President received the Philippine Army Dragon Boat Team (PADBT) for a courtesy call in the President's Hall also in the Palace. The 17-man Philippine Army Dragon Boat Team posted world records and won gold medals in the 200-meter and 500-meter small boat categories, in the 9th International Dragon Boat Federation Club Crews World Championships in Standiana Bacin, Ravenna, Italy last September 3-7, 2014. Finally, after lunch, at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr, and officials from the Department of National Defense and the Department of Budget and Management in the President's Hall.

The President's Day: October 28, 2014

Today 10:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and the Presidential Management Staff in the Private Office in Malacañang.

At 1:00 p.m., the President attended the 13th CEO Forum and 118th General Membership of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) in the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila in Makati City. During the event, the President delivered a speech. Read it in full [here](#).

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8IqZZtN96M>[/youtube]

The theme of the event was: “Overcoming Challenges for Inclusive Economic Growth.” SEIPI is the largest organization of foreign and Filipino semiconductor and electronics companies in the Philippines. In 2013, the industry remained the country’s top export with total receipts of US\$22 billion or 41% of the total export revenue. It brought in US\$92 million worth of foreign and domestic investments, and employed 2.2 million direct and indirect industry workers. Finally at 6:00 p.m., the President attended the 45th AFP Sgt Major and the 19th Non Commissioned Officers Day. At the event the president delivered his second speech of the day. Read it in full [here](#).

The President's Day: October 29, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Presentation of APEC Business Advisory Counsel (ABAC) 2014 Report, as well as the Briefing for APEC, ASEAN, and Singapore Trips. Both meetings were held in the President's Hall in the Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:30 p.m., the President administered the oathtaking of Justice Francis Jardelezain Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 1:45 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Health concerning the Ebola Virus in the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 30, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the President's Hall also in the Palace.

Finally at 3:30 p.m., the President finished his official agenda for the day with a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, the Executive Secretary, and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, held in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 31, 2014

For the whole day today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended to the inspection of major passenger terminals in Metro Manila. This was done in preparation for Undas (or the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day weekend).

At 2:00 p.m., the President inspected the North Port Passenger Terminal Complex of the Manila North Harbor Port in Tondo, Manila.

At around 3:00 p.m., the President inspected NAIA Terminal 3 in Pasay City. At 4:00 p.m., the President then inspected JAC Liner Buendia Terminal, on Donada St., Pasay City. Finally at 4:30 p.m., the President inspected DLTB Nirvana-LRT Buendia Terminal, Taft Avenue.

The President's Day: November 3, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m. President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the inauguration of the Coca-Cola FEMSA Canlubang Expansion Plant, in the Silangan Industrial Estate, Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna. The President delivered a speech at the event.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPOUCnDGxbY>[/youtube]

At 1:30 p.m., the President visited the Sisters of Mary Girlstown in Silang, Cavite. The Sisters of Mary School is a non-stock, non-profit, non-paying, live-in secondary institution for the marginalized poor of our country. It is maintained and supported mainly by donations, gifts, and bequests. At the complex of the Sister's of Mary Girlstown, the President also delivered a speech.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62_jNe21Fyc[/youtube]

The President's Day: November 4, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President received representatives from the Japan National Press Club and Nippon Kisha Club for a courtesy call and then afterwards granted them an interview. The courtesy call was held in the President's Hall in the Palace.

The President's Day: November 5, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led a special Cabinet meeting on Typhoon Yolanda in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 6, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended 2014 Philippines Development Forum on Bangsamoro at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier, Davao City. At the forum, the President delivered a **speech**.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1hYAE_o6Kk[/youtube]

Afterwards, the President visited the wake of Elaine Gamboa Cuneta. She was the mother of singer-actress Sharon Cuneta Pangilinan and sister of Helen Gamboa Sotto. Her wake was held at the Santurio de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City.

The President's Day: November 9, 2014

Today, at 8:50 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Manila for Beijing, China. At Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the president delivered a statement about the nature of his trip. At 1:20 p.m., the President arrived at the Beijing Capital International Airport. At 3:15 p.m., the President attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit 2014. The APEC CEO Summit is a dialogue between APEC Economic Leaders and business leaders (private sector) from across the region. The Summit is divided into 12 sessions. The President was invited to speak during the Summit Dialogue on Economic Reforms, which tackled reform efforts being undertaken in different APEC economies to enhance and sustain economic competitiveness. APEC Leaders and an estimated 1,500 CEOs attended the Summit. At the sidelines of the 25th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, President Benigno S. Aquino III met Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang. Both leaders noted the numerous productive exchanges this year and reaffirmed the strong friendship between the two countries. The two leaders tasked their respective foreign ministers to begin work on a roadmap towards a strategic partnership. Afterwards, at 5:30 p.m., the President received Mr. Raymond McDaniel, Jr., president and CEO of Moody's as well as other officials from Moody's for a courtesy call to the President at the Philippine embassy.

During the courtesy call, the President mentioned the government efforts to ensure that our country remain ebola free. He also spoke of the targets for the Yolanda rehabilitation and the instruction to build back better in order for the country to get out of the cycle of destruction and rehabilitation. Moody's Corporation is the holding company for Moody's Investors Service (MIS), a credit rating agency, and Moody's Analytics (MA), a provider of financial analysis software and services.

Later at 5:55 p.m. the President met with officials of Sanofi. In this meeting, they mentioned to the President that they have been developing a vaccine for dengue which will hopefully be out by 2015.

Sanofi also complimented the president's investment in health. The president emphasized the importance of preventive care over curative care and that investment in health is investing in human capital which provides for sustainable economic development.

Sanofi was established in the 1970s and headquartered in Paris, France. It is an integrated global healthcare group engaged in the research, development, manufacturing, and marketing of healthcare solutions.

Finally at 6:20 p.m. the President met with officials of Johnson & Johnson. The company manufactures health care products and provides related services for the consumer, pharmaceutical and medical devices, and diagnostics markets. It has over 275 operating companies in 60 countries and employs around 128,700 employees worldwide as of October 2014.

The President's Day: November 10, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino was in Beijing, China, for the continuation of his APEC agenda which began yesterday. From 10:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. the President had a series of meetings with different prime ministers. Firstly, the President met with the Right Honorable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; and then he met with H.E. Prayuth Chan-o-cha of the Kingdom of Thailand; afterwards he met with H.E. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand; and finally he met with H.E. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. At 3:15 p.m. the President attended the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue with Leaders. This Dialogue provides ABAC members with the opportunity to discuss the issues and recommendations of the ABAC 2014 with the Leaders. Finally at 6:00 p.m. the President attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Welcome Dinner. This dinner will include a cultural performance and the taking of the APEC Family Photo.

The President's Day: November 11, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III continues his official agenda for the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, in Beijing, China.

At 9:15 a.m., the President attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) Reception of Leaders' Arrival at the International Conference Center in Yanqi Lake.

At 9:30 a.m., the President attended the AELM Retreat (session 1). Afterwards at 11:35 a.m., the President participated in the AELM Family Photo Session. At 11:45 a.m., the President participated in the AELM Tree Planting Ceremony. At 2:00 p.m., the President attended the AELM Retreat (session 2).

At 2:15 p.m., the President attended the AELM Working Lunch.

At 5:40 p.m., the President met with the Philippine Media at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing.

At 7:20 p.m., the President departed Beijing, China for Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Finally At 11:05 p.m. (12:35 a.m. November 12, 2014 Manila Time), the President arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in Myanmar, to attend the 25th ASEAN Summit the following day.

The President's Day: November 12, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, (Nay Pyi Taw is 1 hour and 30 minutes behind Manila) to attend various ASEAN Summits.

(All Photos by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.)

At 9:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. Manila Time), the President attended the opening ceremony of the 25th ASEAN Summit.

At 10:00 a.m. (11:30 a.m. Manila Time), the President attended the launching event of the ASEAN Communications Master Plan (ACMP). The ACMP outlines a series of integrated communications strategies and tactics (e.g., traditional media, social media) to raise awareness and provide a framework on the character, structure, and overall vision of the ASEAN Community.

At 10:15 a.m. (11:45 a.m. Manila Time), the President attended the 25th ASEAN Summit–Plenary Session. The Plenary is a more formal and structured type of discussion where ASEAN Member-States (AMS) leaders exchange views on their political-security, economic, and sociocultural development.

At 1:45 p.m. (3:15 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the 12th ASEAN-Indian Summit. The meeting aims to review and discuss the future direction of ASEAN-India relations and other matters. At 3:00 p.m. (4:30 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit. The meeting aims to review and discuss the future direction of ASEAN-Japan cooperation. At 4:15 p.m. (5:45 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the 6th ASEAN-U.N. Summit. The meeting aims to review and discuss the future direction of the ASEAN-UN relations, and have an exchange of views on regional and international issues, and discuss other matters.

At 5:30 p.m. (7:00 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the ASEAN-Australia 40th Commemorative Summit. The meeting aims to review and discuss the future direction of ASEAN-Australia relations and other related matters.

At 8:00 p.m. (9:30 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the gala dinner hosted by H.E. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and Madame Daw Khin Khin Win.

The President's Day: November 13, 2014

President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, today to attend a series of the ASEAN Summits.

[All the following photos were provided by the Malacañang Photo Bureau.]

At 9:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. Manila Time), the President attended the Plenary Session of the 9th East Asia Summit (EAS). The EAS is a forum on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern aimed at promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity and integration in East Asia.

At 11:45 a.m. (1:15 p.m. Manila Time), the President attended the 2nd ASEAN-United States of America Summit. The summit involved an exchange of views on political and security issues. The ASEAN-U.S. security dialogue focused on the role of the U.S. in maintaining peace and stability in the region. At 1:45 p.m. (3:15 p.m. Manila Time) the President attended the 17th ASEAN-China Summit. The meeting's aim was to review and discuss the future direction of ASEAN-China relations and other matters.

At 2:45 p.m. (4:15 p.m. Manila Time) the President met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Republic of India.

At 3:00 p.m. (4:30 p.m. Manila Time) the President attended the 17th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit. The APT cooperation began at the sidelines of the 2nd ASEAN Informal Summit in Malaysia in December 1997 with the convening of the ASEAN Leaders and their counterparts from other East Asian countries, namely: China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

At 4:30 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Manila Time) the President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC). The meeting served as an avenue for the private sector to give feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation, and to identify priority areas for the consideration of the ASEAN leaders.

At 5:30 p.m. (7:00 p.m. Manila Time) the President attended the closing ceremony of the 25th ASEAN Summit and witnessed the symbolic handover of the ASEAN chairmanship from Myanmar to Malaysia.

At 6:50 p.m. (8:20 p.m. Manila Time) the President met with the Filipino community in Myanmar.

At 8:55 p.m. (10:25 PM Manila Time) the President departed Myanmar for Manila.

At 2:25 a.m., local time, the President arrived in Manila. Upon his arrival, the President delivered a speech about what was accomplished during his trip.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11DRG6GMQ2g>[/youtube]

The President's Day: November 17, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 75th Founding Anniversary Celebration of the Department of National Defence, at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The President delivered a **speech**.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuVkzftQHW8>[/youtube]

At 12:30 p.m., the President received Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu of Turkey for the latter's **official visit to the Philippines**. Later the President hosted a state luncheon in honor of the Prime Minister. At the luncheon, the President delivered **remarks**, wishing His Excellency Davutoglu continued success, as well as hopes for a prosperous partnership between the Philippines and Turkey. After lunch, the two leaders met and discussed, among other things, working on a memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation, which will cover key the improvement of investments, marketing, and cultural exchange, among others.

"With Turkey as our partner, we look forward to further exploring areas of engagement that will open more doors of opportunity for our respective citizens," President Aquino said. "To this end, we hope to convene the inaugural meeting of the Philippines-Turkey Joint Economic Commission in Ankara by next year to outline the approaches necessary in realizing our shared objective."

The President discusses this further in a press statement, delivered during a joint press conference with the Prime Minister after the meeting.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L_C2KU0C-o[/youtube]

At 4:00 p.m. President Aquino proceeded to the Palace's Music Room to receive a courtesy call from Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who accompanied the authors of the book *Sustainable Economic Development* to meet with the President.

Afterwards, President Aquino prepared for events scheduled during his working visit to Singapore, which will start the next day.

The President's Day: November 18, 2014

Today, at around 7:40 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed from Manila to Singapore. At the terminal, the President gave a departure **speech**. He talked about the agenda of the trip, and his invitation from *The Economist* to be the keynote speaker at their event, "**The World in 2015**."

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He7XFXMqzrM>[/youtube] When the President arrived, he paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, at the West Drawing Room of the Istana Main Building. The **Istana** is the official residence and office of the President of Singapore. At around midday, the President attended a luncheon hosted by the President of Singapore, Tony Tan Keng Yam, at the Yusof Room also at the Istana. In the evening, the President attended "The World in 2015," an event of *The Economist*, a publication read all over the world by prominent decision-makers. The President, an economist by training, was the event's keynote interviewee; he was asked about his predictions for the following year.

The President's Day: November 19, 2014

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in the Republic of Singapore. He arrived in the country the day before to attend "In the Year 2015", an event organized by *The Economist*, in which he was the keynote interviewee.

At 10:00 a.m., the President attended a roundtable meeting with business executives organized by the Philippine Trade and Investment Center and Singapore Business Federation.

Afterwards, the President met with the Singapore Airlines Engineering Company (SIAEC). SIAEC is a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines and started as a division of SIA in 1982. The President then met with Temasek officials. Temasek was incorporated in 1974 under the Singapore Companies Act to hold and manage investments and assets previously held by the Singapore Government. Following that, the President met with the Government Investment Corporation (GIC). The GIC was set up in 1981 as a private company wholly-owned by the Singapore government to manage its foreign reserves. Around lunch time, the President was interviewed by the *Straits Times*. The paper is Singapore's national English-language broadsheet with a circulation of 350,000. The President was then interviewed by another media outlet, Channel News Asia. Channel News Asia was established in March 1999 as a 24-hour Asian TV news channel based in Singapore. Shortly after, the President had his last interview hosted by BBC News Asia. This is the Asia Bureau of the BBC, which is a London-based multimedia conglomerate and the oldest national broadcasting organization in the world. The President visited the Jollibee store at the Lucky Plaza Mall where he had his lunch. The first Jollibee store in Singapore was opened in March 2013 at level 6 of Lucky Plaza, and a second store was opened in June 2014 at the food court section of the same building. At 3:10 p.m., the President departed Singapore for Manila via the Changi International Airport.

Finally at 6:45 p.m., the President arrived in Manila at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. After he deplaned, he delivered a **speech** in which he assured, based on the outcome of his official visit to Singapore, the Philippines is no longer the "Sick Man of Asia."

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I00l1_MsGE[/youtube]

The President's Day: November 24, 2014

Today at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the launch of Green Switch, a solar rooftop project of the SM Corporation, at the seventh-floor viewing deck of SM City North EDSA. At the launch, the President gave a speech expressing his support of the company's investment in renewable energy: "whether initiated by government or by businesses like SM and Solar Philippines, these kinds of projects drive home the point that renewable energy can be a competitive choice for power." At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and officials from the Department of Finance and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 25, 2014

At 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and officials from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and the Department of Agriculture at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting regarding the state visit of Pope Francis at the Study Conference Room also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 26, 2014

Today at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III held a dialogue with the Kilus Magniniyog farmers at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace. He delivered an opening statement.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ4QZ1saPTk>[/youtube]

The President's Day: November 27, 2014

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III accepted the credentials of His Excellency Erik Ferner, ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Philippines, in ceremonies held in the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. At 10:30 a.m., the President accepted the credentials of Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Kazuhide Ishikawa, at the same venue.

The President's Day: November 28, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room also in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:00 p.m. the President had a meeting with his speechwriters also at the Blue Room.

The President's Day: December 1, 2014 Today at 6:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Launch of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation logo and theme for 2015 at the Green Sun Hotel in Makati City. At the event, he delivered a speech, recalling the last time the Philippines was the chair and host of APEC twenty years ago:

More than two decades ago, when we last hosted APEC, the Philippines was considered one of the world's most promising economies. In the span between then and now, however, there were moments when many of us wondered if our country's potential had been completely squandered by self-serving leadership. Thankfully, the Filipino persevered. Today, I am proud to say that, in the past four years and five months, with the help of our people, we have turned the corner. We have won back the recognition, the respect, and the confidence of the global community.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVltBAbpfCI>[/youtube]

The President's Day: December 2, 2014

Today at 10:00 President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 2nd State Conference of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, held at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace. At the conference, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7jTUZHUTik>[/youtube]

The President's Day: December 3, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President attended the briefing for his official visit to the Republic of Korea at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 4, 2014

Today at 11: 00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President convened the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to discuss Typhoon Ruby, which is expect to make landfall in the Visayas on Saturday.

The President's Day: December 5, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Annual Bulong Pulungan Christmas Party at the Sofitel Ballroom. At the party, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJCB31zQBOW>[/youtube] At 2:00 p.m., the President received the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 4:00 p.m., the President attended the 2014 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) awarding ceremonies at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. At the event, the President thanked the awardees for their being beacons of excellence: "It is thanks to individuals like you that Filipinos abroad are able to cope with the many challenges of being far away from home... Indeed: it is men and women like you who help to forge a sense of community on distant shores, and who display to the world the innate talents and drive of our people."

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fz7ozWVcaPc>[/youtube]

The President's Day: December 9, 2014

oday at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 1st National Competition Conference at Summit Halls C and D, PICC, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

The President's Day: December 10, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received Thura Shwe Mann, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Union Parliament, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, for a courtesy call at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 11, 2014

Today at 9:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Manila for Busan, Republic of Korea (South Korea). At the terminal, the President delivered his departure speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5xJuibE2B4>[/youtube]

At 1:40 p.m. (12:40 p.m. Manila time), the President arrived in Busan at the VIP Terminal of the Gimhae Air Base. At 3:45 p.m. (2:45 p.m. Manila time), the President met with President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-Hye. At 4:15 p.m. (3:15 p.m. Manila time), the President met with Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak. At 6:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. Manila time), the President toured the Experience in Korea Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO).

Finally at 6:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. Manila time), the President attended the welcome dinner and cultural performance hosted by President Park Geun-Hye at the Grand Ballroom of the BEXCO Convention Hall.

The President's Day: December 12, 2014

Today at 9:25 a.m. (8:25 a.m. Manila time), President Benigno S. Aquino III participated in the Leaders Group Photo Session.

At 9:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. Manila time), the President attended Commemorative Summit Session 1, chaired by the Republic of Korea. The agenda of the session included a review of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Cooperation and its future direction.

At 10:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. Manila time), the President attended Commemorative Summit Session 2, chaired by Myanmar. Topics discussed included cooperation on non-traditional security issues with emphasis on Climate Change and Disaster Management.

At 11:30 a.m. (10:30 a.m., Manila time), the President attended the tour of the Special Exhibition on Public Governance.

At 1:00 p.m. (12:00 p.m. Manila time), the President attended the Leaders' Luncheon hosted by Her Excellency President Park Geun-Hye.

At 3:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m., Manila time), the President attended the coffee meeting with members of the Philippine Media.

At 4:55 p.m. (3:55 p.m., Manila time), the President attended the meet and greet with Mr. Ha Sung-Yong, President and CEO Of Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) Ltd., and General Choi Cha Gyu, Chief of Staff of the ROK Air Force for the viewing of the FA-50 aircraft at the tarmac of the Gimhae Air Base.

At 5:20 p.m. (4:20 p.m. Manila time), the President departed Busan, South Korea for Manila.

At 8:10 p.m. Manila time, the President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2. At the terminal, the President delivered his [arrival statement](#).

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8zNNBp_hB4[/youtube]

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The President's Day: December 15, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Joint Graduation Ceremony of the Officers Candidate Course at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. At the ceremony, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JntjR6TPX8U>[/youtube]

At 5:30 p.m., the President attended the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Lady of EDSA, at the Main Chapel in the EDSA Shrine.

The President's Day: December 16, 2014At around 9:30 p.m., the President released a statement on the Peshawar school attack. In the short release, the President “join[ed] the world in condemning the outrage perpetrated on innocent schoolchildren, and school officials and personnel in Peshawar, Pakistan.”

The President's Day: December 18, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Celebration of the 79th Armed Forces of the Philippines Day at Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The President, in a speech he delivered at the event, referred to the army's role in strengthening the virtuous cycle integral to the Administration's standard of reform.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nmer16g9DE[/youtube]

At 6:00 p.m. the President attended the Aquino Christmas Party at the Heroes Hall at Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 19, 2014

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended Youth Summit at Araneta Coliseum. At the event the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHxKMtgxx4k>[/youtube]

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., the President did a video shoot for the annual Christmas and New Year's message at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 4:00 p.m., the President attended the Pasko ng Batang Pinoy at the Kalayaan Grounds.

The President's Day: December 22, 2014

Today at 9:50 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Early Recovery Program Launch for Typhoon Ruby-Affected Victims in Dolores, Eastern Samar.

About an hour later, the President attended the same recovery program in another Ruby-affected area: Borongan City.

The President delivered two speeches, one in Dolores and the other in Borongan City.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYmtVzk6JT4>[/youtube]

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhFnQ_QiN1Y[/youtube]

Today was also when the President released his Christmas video message:

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xt4WAQ0pe-E>[/youtube]

The President's Day: December 23, 2014

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III signed the 2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA) at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace. At the event, the President, in a speech, highlighted that, again, the GAA was passed on time for the 5th consecutive year. At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Office of the Presidential Advisor for Rehabilitation and Recovery at the Private Office.

Afterwards at 3:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. also at the Private Office.

Finally at 7:00 p.m., the President attended the Christmas Party of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) at the PSG Compound.

The President's Day: December 29, 2014

Today at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and officials from the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and the National Economic Development Authority in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 30, 2014

Today at 7:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the commemoration of the 118th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal, at the Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila. The President, reminded the Filipino of Rizal's legacy, in a his message for the occasion. At 2:50 p.m., the President attended the wedding ceremony of two celebrities, Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera-Gracia. The two well-known actors were married at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, Quezon City.

The President's Day: January 5, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also in the Private Office.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with his speechwriters in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 6, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President met with Undersecretary Manny Bautista in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 7, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led the presentation of credentials to four resident ambassadors-designate—namely from Argentina, Panama, Netherlands, and South Africa at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:20 a.m., the President led the presentation the of credentials of three non-resident ambassadors-designate. These ambassadors were from Nepal, Congo, and Ireland. At the event the President delivered a brief message welcoming the ambassadors to the Philippines.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Sen. Bam Aquino at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 8, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III held a meeting regarding the Papal Visit at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 5:00 a.m., the President attended the Association of Philippine Physicians in America – Philippine Medical Association (APPA-PMA) Joint Congress 2015 at the Rigodon Ballroom, Manila Hotel. At the opening ceremony, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vZ4g8A6FLE>[/youtube]

The President's Day: January 9, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Romblon to attend the Aerial Inspection of the Romblon-Sawang-Agpanabat Provincial Road. He also attended the ceremonial inauguration of new buildings at the Romblon provincial hall. There, he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: January 12, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the New Year's Vin d'Honneur held at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace. The **Vin d'Honneur** is held twice a year: once to mark the beginning of the new year, and a second time on June 12, to celebrate the anniversary of Philippine independence. At the event, the President delivered a toast.

The President's Day: January 13, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 14, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with his speechwriters at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

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The President's Day: January 15, 2015

Today at 5:45 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the arrival honors of Pope Francis for his state visit and apostolic journey to the Republic of the Philippines at the Kalayaan Lounge in Villamore Air Base.

The President's Day: January 20, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 21, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquino Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also in the Private Office.

Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with his speechwriters at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 22, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Secretary Pangilinan of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization also at the Private Office.

Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 23, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Energy also at the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: January 25, 2015

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Zamboanga City, the site of a bombing incident that killed two people and wounded fifty others two days before. The President conducted a personal inspection of the site. The President was accompanied by Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Mar Roxas II, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin, Secretary of Social Welfare Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, and Mayor Beng Climaco. They visited survivors of the incident and condoled with the families of the deceased.

The President's Day: January 26, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials the Department of Budget Management at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 27, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III conferred the Order of Sikatuna to Singaporean Ambassador Velupilla Ponnundurai Hirubalan during the latter's farewell call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President received the Parliamentary Delegation from the Korean National Assembly for a courtesy call at the President's Hall in Malacañan.

At 3:00 p.m., the President signed the Book of Condolences for the Late King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Makati City.

The President's Day: January 28, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Communications group also in Private Office.

At 4:30 p.m., the President attended the International Contact Conference and Expo 2015 at the Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

At 6:30 p.m., the President delivered a live televised message to the nation in response to the Mamasapano incident.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWDsbdkLW9Q>[/youtube]

The President's Day: January 29, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the inauguration of the New Factory of Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp. During the event, the President delivered a speech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Akzd61NYaj4>[/youtube]

President's Day: January 30, 2015

Today was declared a Day of National Mourning, by virtue of Proclamation No. 953, s. 2015, in honor of the 44 members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) who fell during an armed encounter in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, last Sunday, January 25, 2015.

In the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III left for the necrological service, held at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

The President gave a eulogy for the honored dead and their sacrifice to upholding peace and order. After, the President continued speaking with the families of the fallen SAF troopers.

He spent more than 12 hours with the bereaved, leaving the venue past midnight.

The President's Day: February 2, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 3, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Finance, Department of Justice, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of National Defense at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 4, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 5, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a courtesy call at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President received Memorar Manila 1945 Foundation Inc for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 6, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President has a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with ComGroup in the Private Office.

Finally at 6:30 p.m., the President's addressed the nation on the developments of the Mamasapano clash investigation. The event was televised live at the Presidents Hall.

[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn1Psur3t_Y[/youtube]

The President's Day: February 10, 2015

The President's Day: February 9, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 4:00 p.m., the President welcomed the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, to the Malacañan Palace. President Widodo was in the Philippines for a state visit.

After arrival honors led by President Benigno S. Aquino III, President Widodo signed the Palace Guest Book, and, with President Aquino, witnessed a signing of agreements between the Philippines and Indonesia, at the Palace Reception Hall.

[youtube]<http://youtu.be/MwrZAzlcaX0?t=7m3s>[/youtube]

After an expanded bilateral meeting, the two leaders delivered remarks, after which President Aquino hosted a state dinner in honor of President Widodo and his spouse.

The President's Day: February 10, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Shortly after at 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. also in the Private Office.

At 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 11, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m. the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget and Management in the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 12, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 4:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Secretary of Interior and Local Government Mar Roxas.

The President's Day: February 13, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and officials from the Department of Budget and Management, also at the Blue Room.

The President's Day: February 16, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the National Economic Development Authority Board at the State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 17, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget Management at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 18, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry, and Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m, the President had a meeting with the Department of Budget and Management at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 20, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received Sumitomo Officials for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President received CEO of Unilever Mr. Paul Polman for a courtesy call also at the Music Room.

Finally at 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Transportation and Communication, the Department of Science and Technology, the National Economic Development Authority, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Technical Education Skills Development Authority, and the Office of the Executive Secretary. The meeting was held in the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 23, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Viewing Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room also in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 24, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations Awarding Ceremony at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace. During the event, the President delivered a speech.
[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c9HeC4iOiM>[/youtube]

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 25, 2015

Today at 11:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the wreath laying in commemoration of the 29th Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution. The event was held at the People Power Monument.

Afterwards at 12:15 p.m., the President attended Mass at the EDSA Shrine. There, he delivered aspeech.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik9ZK8t9kBY>[/youtube]

The President's Day: February 26, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Budget and Management and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 4:30 p.m., the President attended the welcome ceremony of the President of the Republic of France François Hollande. This was France's first-ever state visit to the Philippines. It was the first state visit by a French president to the Philippines. After the welcoming ceremonies, the two heads of state held a bilateral meeting in which they discussed issues such as the protection of the environment and marine resources, higher education and research, tourism, and transportation. President Aquino and President Hollande thus jointly declared an enhanced partnership between the two countries.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJoZ5625Zs4>[/youtube]

After a joint press statement, both presidents delivered remarks at the launch of the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXxoNoE1Ezs>[/youtube]

Noting that the Philippines bears the brunt of the adverse effects of the changing climate, President Aquino said that he hopes all nations agree to a universal agreement during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris later this year.

The President's Day: February 27, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. also in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 4:00 p.m., the President received principal officials and delegates of the ASEAN Law Association at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 2, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterwards at 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:30 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Public Works and Highways at the Study Conference Room in the Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 3, 2015

Today at 10:45 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Matthew Festing, Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Philippines for an official visit. The welcoming ceremony was held at Malacañan Palace. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Order of Malta.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8imOySQO2s>[/youtube]

President Aquino and Prince and Grandmaster Festing held a joint press statement on the cooperation between the Philippines and the Order of Malta. After which the two of them attended a luncheon in honor of the latter. The President then gave a toast to the Prince and Grandmaster.

The President's Day: March 4, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Assumption of Command Ceremony of the PNP-SAF at the National Capital Region Police Office Conference Room at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City. At 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Justice, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples at the Study Conference Room at Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 5, 2015

Today at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Room in Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel also at the Private Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 2:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Justice, the Department of Agrarian Reform, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 6, 2015

Today at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

Finally at 3:00 p.m., the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The President's Day: March 9, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with the Executive Secretary in the Blue Room.

At 3:00 p.m., the President hosted a prayer gathering with Christian groups in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 12, 2015

In the morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino met with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Agrarian Reform in the Study Conference Room.

At 1:00 p.m., the President attended a meeting on Yolanda at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President's Day: March 23, 2015

This morning, as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade our country's infrastructure, President Benigno S. Aquino III traveled to Tiaong, Quezon, to attend a briefing on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Toll Road 4 Project as well as other major road projects in the Southern Tagalog region. In the afternoon, he returned to Manila and met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

The President's Day: March 24, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered the keynote address at the Philippine Investment Forum in the Rigodon Ballroom at The Peninsula Manila. In his speech at the Philippines Investment Forum 2015 this morning, President Aquino remarked, “By nearly all available measures—be it GDP, global competitiveness rankings, or credit ratings—the Philippines is poised for even more success.” [READ: [The full transcript of the President's speech](#)]

At 12:30 p.m., the President returned to Malacañan Palace to host a luncheon for members of the volleyball teams of the Ateneo de Manila University and of the De La Salle University today. [Read the remarks of the President during the luncheon.](#)

The President's Day: March 25, 2015

This morning, President Aquino addressed more than 5,000 graduates of the government's Store Training and Access to Resources (STAR) Program during the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's Women's Month celebration. The event was held at the Mall of Asia Arena, Pasay City. At 2:00 p.m., the President gave an interview to William Pesek of Bloomberg at the President's Hall.

Afterwards at 3:30 p.m., President Aquino met with the Executive Secretary at the Private Office.

The President's Day: March 26, 2015

In the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III addressed the graduates of the PNPA Lakandula Class of 2015 during their commencement ceremony at Camp Castañeda. President Aquino extended his congratulations to the graduates, and challenged them to surpass the good example of those that came before them. * “Sa bawat kriminal na inyong mahuhuli, sa bawat suhol na inyong tatanggihan, at sa bawat pagpapakita ninyo ng tapang sa panahon ng sakuna, makakapag-ambag kayo sa higit na kaligtasan ng kalakhang lipunan.”

Late into the afternoon, President Aquino received the Korean Ambassador for a farewell call in the Music Room.

Afterwards, the President shot a video message for the Lenten season at the President's Hall.

The President's Day: March 27, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III delivered a speech at the 30th Biennial Convention of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII). In his address, the president expressed his “[hope] for the continued, if not increased, participation in the grand task of nation building”^{*} of the Chinese people. The event was held in Function Room 5, at the SMX Convention Center.

The President returned to Malacañan Palace in the afternoon for a meeting with the Executive Secretary at the Private Office.

In the late afternoon, the President visited the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore for the signing of the book of condolences for the Late Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The President's Day: March 30, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended two meetings, one with the Cabinet Secretary along with the Presidential Management Staff, and the other with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr, in the Private Office.

In the afternoon, President Aquino met with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: April 6, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office.

In the afternoon the President had two meetings. The first meeting was with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel. The second meeting was with officials from the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management. Both meetings were held in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: April 7, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the inauguration of the Lullutan Bridge in Ilagan City. There the President delivered a speech.

The President's Day: April 8, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office.

In the afternoon, the President had a briefing on the ASEAN Summit at the President's Hall. Afterwards he had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Private Office.

The President's Day: April 9, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 73rd Commemoration of Araw Ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat National Shrine in Bataan. The President delivered a speech.

The President's Day: April 10, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room.

In the afternoon, the President had three meetings. The first meeting was with officials from the Department of Science and Technology at the Study Conference Room. The president then met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Public Works and Highways in the same room. His last meeting was just with the Department of Budget and Management at the Private Office.

The President's Day: April 13, 2015

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Awarding of the TESDA Nationwide ISO 9001:2008 Certification at the Heroes Hall. During the awarding, the President delivered a speech. In the afternoon, the President had a meeting regarding post-Yolanda rehabilitations at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President's Day: April 14, 2015

The morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Philippine Stock Exchange bell ringing ceremony at the Ayala Trading Floor in Makati where he delivered a speech.

In the afternoon the president was interviewed by Agence France Press Interview in the Music Room.

The President's Day: April 15, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the LMP General Assembly at the Manila Hotel. The President delivered a speech during the assembly. In the afternoon the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Education at the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: April 16, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff.

In the afternoon, the President was interviewed by South China Morning Post in the Music Room. The interview was followed by a meeting with the Presidential Peace Advisor in the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: April 17, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the ceremonial turnover of the Department of Education's public private partnership for school infrastructure project, which involves the construction of over 9,000 classrooms in various regions. The President inaugurated two new classroom buildings at the Malolos Central Elementary Integrated School, and two new classroom buildings at the Tarlac National High School. He delivered a speech during the event.

The President's Day: April 20, 2015

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff in the Private Office.

In the afternoon, the President had a meeting was with the Executive Secretary in the Private Office.

The President's Day: April 21, 2015

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office.

Early in the afternoon, the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Budget and Management in the Private Office.

Afterward, he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: April 22, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting regarding updates on the Yolanda rehabilitation in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

In the afternoon, the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: April 23, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the high school graduation of beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program at the Areneta Coliseum. The President delivered a speech during the event. In the afternoon, the President spoke at the 20th anniversary celebration and investors recognition night of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority at the World Trade Center. In the evening, the President attended the gala reception of Madrid Fusion-Manila, where he welcomed the collection of chefs in the Rizal Hall.

The President's Day: April 24, 2015

This morning President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff in the Private Office.

In the afternoon, the President conferred the Order of Sikatuna to Secretary General of International Maritime Organization Koji Sekimizu. The ceremony was held in Malacañan Palace.

This was followed by a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Private Office.

The President's Day: April 26, 2015

The President departed at 12 noon from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 26th ASEAN Summit. Before setting out, the President delivered some remarks on his trip.

The President's Day: April 27, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi, Malaysia. He attended the Opening Ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit. Afterward, the President attended the 26th ASEAN Summit Plenary with the other ASEAN Leaders. This event will include the taking of the Group Photo.

He then attended the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

The President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

In the afternoon, the President attended the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth.

The President then attended the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of Civil Society Organizations.

Afterward he departed Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

About mid afternoon, the President arrived at the Kompleks Lang Merah, Langkawi International Airport.

He then attended the 26th ASEAN Summit Retreat.

The President then attended the Closing Ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit.

Finally, the President attended a barbecue dinner hosted by H.E. Najib Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the 26th ASEAN Summit, and his spouse, Madam Rosmah Mansor.

The President's Day: April 28, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 11th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit. The annual meeting discussed developments in initiatives for the subregion and subregional cooperation. Afterward, The President attended the coffee meeting with the Philippine media.

The President then departed Langkawi for Manila via the Langkawi International Airport.

The President arrived in Manila at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport around mid-afternoon. He delivered arrival remarks at the terminal.

The President's Day: May 6, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Manila for San Francisco, U.S.A. He delivered a departure statement at the terminal in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The President arrived in San Francisco in the morning of the same day (local time of San Francisco) for a technical stop before departing again for Chicago.

He arrived early in the afternoon (local time of Chicago), and after which he received for a courtesy call the Mayor of Chicago, Rah Emanuel. The President then attended a business meeting co-organized by the US Chamber of Commerce, the US ASEAN Business Council, and the National Center for APEC. The roundtable served as a venue to discuss topics such as the Philippines' economic developments and the programs and policies which contributed to the country's economic growth. In the evening (local time of Chicago), the President met with the Filipino community where he delivered a speech. There are around 139,090 Filipinos in the state of Illinois where 90,000 are in Metropolitan Chicago.

The President's Day: May 7, 2015

This morning (local time of Chicago), President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Chicago, U.S.A. for Ottawa, Canada. He arrived at his destination later in afternoon (local time of Ottawa). Upon his arrival, the President attended the Welcome Ceremony with Military Honors held in his honor at the grounds of Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor-General of Canada.

Afterward, he paid a courtesy call on Governor-General of Canada David Johnston.

The President then attended the Ceremonial Tree Planting at the grounds of Rideau Hall. Planting ceremonial trees has become a Canadian tradition, symbolizing the living friendship and cooperation of nations. Many of the trees at Rideau Hall grounds have been especially planted by a visiting Head of State or other foreign dignitaries to mark an important event or anniversary.

In the evening, the President attended the reception and dinner hosted in his honor by the Governor-General David Johnston and his wife Sharon Johnston.

The President's Day: May 8, 2015

This morning (local time of Ottawa), President Benigno S. Aquino III was welcomed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the welcoming party at Centre Block, Parliament Hill. The President signed the Distinguished Visitors Book of the Senate and the Distinguished Visitors Book of the House of Commons.

The President then had a tête-à-tête with Prime Minister Harper.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of documents and appeared at a joint press conference. [[Read the President's statement here.](#)]

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDt-OoD9PMM>[/youtube]

This was followed by a tour of the Library of Parliament.

The President then attended the working luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Harper.

Afterward, the President departed Ottawa for Toronto early in the afternoon.

Shortly after arriving in Toronto, he attended an Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC) business meeting with top Canadian CEOs. The APFC is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Canada's relationship with Asia. The business meeting will involve discussions on the Philippines' economic developments and the administration's commitment to sustain inclusive economic growth and ensure the continuity of programs and policies, among others.

He then attended the reception hosted by Prime Minister Harper in his honor and for the Filipino community.

[youtube]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WTSxsmdDfk>[/youtube]

In the evening, the President attended a meet and greet with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, which was followed by another meet and greet with Mr. Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Finally, the President had coffee with the Philippine media.

The President's Day: May 9, 2015

This morning (local time of Toronto), President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Toronto for Vancouver, Canada. The President arrived at the Vancouver International Airport early in the afternoon (local time of Vancouver). The President attended a meet and greet with the Honorable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia.

He then met with the Filipino Community in Vancouver.

In the evening, the President departed Vancouver for Manila.

The President's Day: May 15, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, and the Department of Justice at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

At around lunch time, he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary officials from the Department of Justice and the Department of Budget and Management at the President's Hall.

Afterward, the President had a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Private Office.

The President's Day: May 18, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary at the Blue Room.

After lunchtime, the President had a meeting with the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Private Office.

The President's Day: May 19, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the National Economic and Development Authority Board Meeting held at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: May 20, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Private Office.

Finally, he had a meeting with the Department of Agriculture at the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: May 21, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received the World Trade Organization for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President received the credentials of the Ambassador of New Zealand, the Ambassador of Laos, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, and the Ambassador of Thailand, at the Music Room.

The President's Day: May 22, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: May 25, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the Oplan Balik Eskwela at the Markikina Elementary School in Marikina City.

In the afternoon, he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: May 26, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room.

In the afternoon, the President held a briefing on the state visit to Japan.

The President's Day: May 27, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III administered the oath of office to newly appointed generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, He had a meeting regarding the Valenzuela Factory Fire at the Study Conference Room.

Afterward, the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary at the Private Office.

He then had a meeting with his speech writers in the Private Office.

The President's Day: May 28, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Justice at the Study Conference Room.

Afterward, the President had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and officials from the Department of Justice, the Department of National Defence, and the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Study Conference Room.

The President's Day: May 29, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the event “K to 12, Kayang-Kaya, Sama-sama!” at the Plenary Hall in the Philippine International Convention Center.

The President's Day: June 1, 2015

In the afternoon, President Benigno S. Aquino III held a press conference at the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, the President had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance.

The President's Day: June 3, 2015

Today, in the morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the welcoming ceremony with their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace. There, he paid a state call on their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

Afterward, the President attended a meet and greet with Messrs. Tsuneo Kita, Chairman of Nikkei Inc. and Naotoshi Okada, President and CEO of Nikkei Inc.

He then had a one-on-one interview with Mr. Minoru Satake, Nikkei Manila Bureau Chief.

The President then delivered a keynote speech at the Nikkei 21st International Conference on the Future of Asia – Special Session.

At lunchtime, the President attended a luncheon hosted by Mr. Tsuneo Kita, Chairman of Nikkei Inc.

Afterward, the President delivered an address before the joint session of the National Diet of Japan.

“Your honors, like the Japanese people, we Filipinos place great value in long-term friendships. Indeed, our relations have been described as “a friendship of two suns.” I am confident that, as we deepen our engagement, our combined light will shine even more brightly upon our peoples and our region.”

The President then attended a meet and greet with Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, Governor of the Bank of Japan.

He was then paid a courtesy call by the officials of the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Early in the evening, the President attended a meet and greet with Mr. Katsuya Okada, Head of the Democratic Party of Japan.

Finally, He attended a state banquet hosted by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress where he delivered a toast.

The President's Day: June 4, 2015

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meet and greet with the organizers of the Philippine Investment Forum, including the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), ASEAN-Japan Centre, and the Philippine Society of Japan.

The President then delivered the keynote speech at the Philippine Investment Forum. The event features sessions about investment opportunities and doing business in the Philippines.

Afterward, The President attended a business meeting with two clusters: Office Equipment, Electronics and Medical Devices; and Infrastructure. The meeting served to encourage potential investors in the medical, electronics, and infrastructure industries, and to thank investors that have signified intent to invest or expand in the Philippines.

“[L]et us explore new ways to spur each other’s success and to improve our collective fortunes—contributing to the growth of your businesses, the development of our country, and the realization of a brighter future for the Filipino people.”

During lunchtime, he attended a luncheon with Japanese Association Heads. The event allowed the President to express his gratitude for the support extended by Japanese business associations toward fostering PH-Japan economic relations.

“[A]t the core of our successes is the operationalization of a fundamental principle: to make government an enabler; to reform the system to better serve our countrymen and those willing to bet on them; and to jumpstart a virtuous cycle of confidence that leads to expansion, and ultimately redounds to our shared advancement.”

The President was then paid a courtesy call by the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Akihiro Tanaka.

In the evening, the President attended a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

“This State Visit has been a major opportunity to deepen the friendship between our nations. The spectrum of cooperation between Japan and the Philippines is vast, and I am proud to announce that we have made significant strides in nearly all aspects of our relations.”

Afterward, the President attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during which the former delivered a toast.

Finally, the President held a forum with the Philippine media.

The President's Day: June 5, 2015

This morning, their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko paid a farewell call on President Benigno S. Aquino III. Afterwards, the President was interviewed by members of the Japan National Press Club. Early in the afternoon, he departed Tokyo for Manila via Philippine Airlines Chartered Flight PR 001.

The President arrived in Manila at around 5:30 p.m. He delivered a speech detailing the accomplished agenda of the state visit to Japan.

The President's Day: June 8, 2015

This afternoon, President Benigno S. Aquino III received the credentials of the newly appointed non-resident ambassadors from Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Hellenic Republic of Greece. In the evening, he attended the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino-Chinese community's celebration of the 117th Philippine Independence Day, where he also delivered a speech.

The President's Day: June 30, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received Her Majesty Queen Maxima of Netherlands for a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. In the afternoon, the President administered the oath of office to newly appointed officials in a ceremony at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. Afterwards, he had a meeting with the Secretary of Interior and Local Government at the Private Office.

The President's Day: July 1, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 68th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force at Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

There, the President delivered a speech.

The President's Day: July 2, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Finance at the Presidents Hall in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel.

The President's Day: July 3, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the heads of the departments that make up the cabinet cluster on economic development at the Presidents Hall in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, the President had a meeting with his speech writers at the Blue Room.

The President's Day: July 6, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting regarding the Presentation of Budget for FY2016 at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room. The President's Day: July 7, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon the President had a meeting with Senator Bam Aquino in the Private Office.

Afterwards, he had a meeting with his speechwriters at the Blue Room.

President's Month in Review: July 8-16, 2015

President's Month in Review: July 17-30, 2015

President's Month in Review: August 1-9, 2015

The President's Day: August 10, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office at Malacañan Palace.

Afterward at 11:00 a.m., he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room.

At 3:00 p.m., he attended the Philippine Navy Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony at the Philippine Navy Headquarters in Roxas Boulevard, where he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: August 11, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m. President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting on DTI concerns at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he had a meeting with Secretary Pangilinan in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., he had a meeting with Governor Hataman in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 13, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with DOH, OCS, CPLC, PhilHealth, DOF, DOJ, and NEDA at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 17, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with ES, OCS, DOF, DBM, NEDA, CPLC, PLLO, and BIR at the study conference room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he had a cabinet meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 18, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Naga City, Camarines Sur to attend the commemoration of Jesse M. Robredo's 3rd death anniversary.

There, he visited the tomb of the late Sec. Robredo at the Eternal Gardens in Brgy. Balatas.

Afterward, he attended the Jesse M. Robredo Multi-sectoral forum at the city hall grounds in Brgy. Concepcion, where he delivered a speech.

See President Aquino at the tribute to Jesse Robredo here:

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., Mr. Muhtar Kent, Chairman of the board and CEO of Coca-Cola paid President Aquino a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: August 24, 2015

This morning, at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a windshield inspection of the widening of the Mactan Circumferential Road in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu. A windshield inspection is a drive-by inspection conducted from a vehicle.

Afterward, at 11:10 a.m., he attended the Briefing on Major Infrastructure Projects in Cebu City, where he delivered a speech.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he attended and spoke at a gathering of friends at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City.

The President's Day: August 25, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with his security cluster at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel among others in his private office.

The President's Day: August 27, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III conducted an inspection of the 1st phase of the Manggahan Residences in Manggahan, Pasig. The Manggahan Residences project targets informal settlers whose livelihoods are affected by flooding within the city. Afterward at 11:00 he attended the Inauguration of the Rizal Technological University (RTU) Sen. Neptali A. Gonzales Academic Hall. While in RTU, President Aquino attended a briefing on the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila where he also delivered a speech.

The President's Day: August 28, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., His Excellency, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand, conducted an official visit to President Benigno S. Aquino. An official visit is when high-ranking officials (cabinet level to head of government) are invited to visit another country by its government. Honors are given if the foreign official is the head of government, but not so for cabinet-rank officials. The friendship between the Philippines and Thailand dates as far back as 1949. This was the first time that the Philippines conducted diplomatic relations with South East Asia. In 1950, a Treaty of Friendship was ratified between both countries. During Prime Minister Chan-o-cha's visit, President Aquino gave two statements: the first was given at the press statement for the Prime Minister's official visit. This was held at the Palace Grounds of Malacañan Palace. President Aquino delivered his second statement during the luncheon in honor of the Prime Minister, at Malacañan Palace. See the full album of the Prime Minister's visit [here](#):

The President's Day: September 2, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and his Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with his Executive Secretary as well as with the Departments of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Labor and Employment, Trade and Industry, Science and Technology, and the National Economic and Development Authority. The meeting was held at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 7, 2015

In the morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting on DOLE concerns at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he attended the Farewell Call with the Swiss ambassador at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 8, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III, had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and his Cabinet Secretary in his Private Office, in Malacañan Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) at the PDI Head Office, on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

The President's Day: September 9, 2015

This morning, at 8:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Villamor Air Base for Misamis Occidental. There, at 10:00 a.m., he attended a briefing on the major infrastructure projects in Misamis Occidental at the Sinanduloy, Cultural Center in Tangub. He also delivered a speech. In the afternoon, at 1:20 p.m., he went to an inspection of ongoing 4.7 km Camudmud section and an Inaugural Drive Through of the 6.3 km Babak-Camudmud section of the Island Garden City of Samal Circumferential Road. Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., the President attended a briefing on the DOT- DPWH Convergence Program at the Holiday Oceanview Resort Village in Brgy. Camudmud, Samal, Davao del Norte. There he delivered a speech, addressing the recent steps forward made by the Departments of Tourism and Public works and Highways for Davao. Later, at 3:25 p.m., he paid a visit to the Treevolution of the Young Participants at Teodoro Palma Gil Elementary School Gym, on Elpidio Quirino Avenue, Poblacion District, Davao City. Finally, at 4:15 p.m., he attended and spoke at A Gathering of Friends at the SMX Convention Center, in SM Lanang Premier, in Davao City. There he reiterated his support for Mar Roxas.

The President's Day: September 10, 2015

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Mactan, Cebu where, currently, the third 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Seniors' Officials Meetings are currently happening.

APEC is a multilateral international organization which seeks to foster free trade and economic prosperity among its member-economies in the Asia-Pacific region. This year, the Philippines is hosting APEC with the theme "Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World." The first two Seniors' Officials Meetings were held in Clark Field, Pampanga, and in Boracay, Aklan.

In the afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., the President attended and spoke at the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting which was held at Shangri-la Mactan's Rosal Ballroom, Lapu-lapu City.

The President's Day: September 14, 2015

This morning, at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III flew to Iloilo to attend the ceremonial launch of the Iloilo Business Park as well as the inauguration of Richmonde Hotel, Iloilo. Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he attended and spoke at the inauguration of the Iloilo Convention Center in Megaworld. Later in the afternoon, the President flew back to Manila to meet with the Honorable Han Min-koo, the incumbent in-house Minister of Defense of the Republic of South Korea. The courtesy call was held at the Kalayaan Lounge of the Villamor Airbase, in Pasay City.

The President's Day: September 16, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with his Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon at 1:00 p.m., he had an interview with writer Neni Sta. Romana Cruz at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward at 2:30 p.m., he had a video interview with Kim Komenich at the President's Hall Sala.

The President's Day: September 17, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was invited to the APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy, where he delivered the keynote speech. This was held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay, Metro Manila. At noon, the President conducted a press conference where he delivered a statement regarding the recent findings of the Mamasapano Investigation. In the afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., he held a meeting regarding traffic at his Private Office in his Malacañan Palace. Afterward, at 3:30 p.m., he met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Office of the Executive Secretary at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 18, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 11:00, he had a meeting with the Executive Secretary (ES) and the Chief Presidential Legal Council (CPLC) at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., the President met with the officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department Budget and Management, as well as the ES and the CPLC, at the Study Conference in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 21, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Department of Social Welfare and Development at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace. Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he met with the Philippine representatives to the International Cheer Union 2015 Cheering Championships for a photo opportunity at the Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 22, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and spoke at the 17th Philippine Quality Awards, which was held at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace. The Philippine Quality Awards is a program that recognizes achievements in the public and private sector, and continues to encourage organizations to attain and strive for performance excellence.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had an interview with Tina Monzon-Palma of the ABS-CBN News Channel at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afteward, at 2:00 p.m., the President met with the Department of Transportation and Communications at the Study Conference Hall, in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 23, 2015

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Apayao.

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended an Inspection of the Far North Hospital in Brgy. Quirino in Luna.

Afterward at 10:35 a.m., he delivered a speech at an event on the Accomplishments of the Aquino Administration in Apayao, which was held at the Bienvenido GM Verzola Jr. Memorial Sports Center, in Brgy. Poblacion.

The President's Day: September, 24, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino met with the Departments of Finance, and Budget and Management.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he met with the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., he met with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

All his meetings were conducted at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: September 28, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with the Departments of Budget and Management, Finance, and National Defense at the Study Conference Room. Both these meetings were held in Malacanan Palace.

In the evening, at 5:00 p.m., he attended the Liga ng mga Barangay National Assembly, at the Marriott Hotel in Manila, where he delivered a speech. The Liga ng mga Barangay is a formal organization of all the barangays in the Philippines, comprising of nearly 42,000 barangays across the country.

The President's Day: September 29, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Jollibee Foods Corporation's founders and top management at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he attended and delivered a speech at the Apolonario Mabini Awards ceremony, which was held at the Heroes Hall, also in Malacañan Palace. The Apolonario Mabini Awards was launched by the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PFRD) in 1974 to honor outstanding persons with disabilities, professionals, groups and establishments that have rendered outstanding service to Persons With Disabilities.

The President's Day: September 30, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the convention of the National Executive Council of the Liberal Party at the Balay Expo Centro Building in Cubao. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 1, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary

In the afternoon at 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary.

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his speechwriters.

All his meetings were held at his Private Office in Malacanan Palace.

The President's Day: October 2, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the ceremonial contract signing and groundbreaking ceremony for the new Supreme Court complex at the PH Army Security Group (PASEG) Lot in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. There he delivered a speech. In the afternoon at 2:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 5, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a Liberal Party (LP) event at Club Filipino, San Juan, where LP Presidential Candidate former Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas formally introduced Congresswoman Leni Robredo as his running mate for Vice President.

During the event the President delivered a speech.

In the afternoon at 3:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 6, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Presidential Management Staff at his private office in Malacanan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he was invited as the guest of honor, and to deliver the keynote speech at the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Scholar's Day, which was held at Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City. The event aims to recognize the important role of tech-voc education in the country's economic and social development. This year's theme is "Pagpupugay sa mga TESDA Specialistas."

Afterward, at 5:00 p.m., the President was also invited as the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the 7th International Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) Summit. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel, Pasay City.

The President's Day: October 7, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino met with the Department of National Defense.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he met with this Executive Secretary and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel. Both meetings were held at his Private Office in Malacanan Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he attended to some personal matters.

The President's Day: October 8, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Department of the Interior and Local Government at his Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary and his Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, at the Blue Room.

Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., he met with his speechwriters at his Private Office.

All of President Aquino's meetings were held at Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 9, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Presidential Management Staff at his Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary at the Blue Room.

All the meetings were held in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 12, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Liberal Party Senate Slate announcement, where he delivered a speech. The event was held at the Balay Expo Centro Building in Cubao. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary and his Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at his Private Office, in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 13, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., the outgoing Qatar Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Jassim Ali Al Obaidli paid a farewell call on President Benigno S. Aquino III at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. Afterward he met with the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 14, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Senator Bam Aquino.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he met with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Both meetings were held at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., he attended the Forbes Global CEO Conference, where he engaged in a one-on-one dialogue with Forbes Media LLC Chairman and Editor-in-Chief Mr. Steve Forbes. The event was held at the Solaire Resort and Casino in Parañaque City.

The President's Day: October 15, 2015

This morning, at 7:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III along with other members of the Liberal Party, attended mass at the Manila Cathedral. In the afternoon, at 4:00 p.m., he attended the 40th National Housing Authority Anniversary and “Gawad Parangal sa Kabalikat sa Pabahay” Ceremony. Pres. Aquino was invited to be the guest of honor and to deliver a message to the NHA for their anniversary. The National Housing Authority is mandated to focus on socialized housing through the development of comprehensive and integrated housing development and resettlement; fasttracking the determination and development of government lands suitable for housing; and ensuring the sustainability of socialized housing funds by improving its collection efficiency, among others.

The President's Day: October 19, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace. In the afternoon, at 4:30 p.m., he went to Nueva Ecija National High School in Cabanatuan to personally assess the damage caused by Typhoon Lando in the area and to help distribute relief goods for the families affected.

The President's Day: October 20, 2015

Today, at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office.

In the afternoon, 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary at the Blue Room.

Both meetings were held in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 21, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary.

In the afternoon, 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary.

Afterward, at 3:00 p.m., he met with his Communications Group.

All the meetings were conducted at his Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 22, 2015

President Benigno S. Aquino III traveled to Casiguran in Aurora Province to personally assess the damage wrought by Lando and to aid with the relief operations. Members of the Cabinet who accompanied the President were: Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, Secretary Proceso Alcala, Secretary Dinky Soliman, and NDRRMC Chair Alexander Pama. At 10:30 a.m., he attended the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) briefing and turnover of relief goods, which was held at the Casiguran Municipal Hall in Poblacion. Afterward, at 11:30 a.m., he made his rounds, visiting the damaged infrastructure and facilities in the area, namely St. Anthony de Padua Parish Church, Casiguran Public Market, the Casiguran District Hospital, and Tinib-Calang-cuasan Integrated School. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he conducted an aerial inspection of Pangasinan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan, to survey the extent of the damage caused by Lando.

The President's Day: October 26, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with his Security Cluster in the Study Conference Room of Malacañang Palace. In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he attended the 15th National Public Employment Service Office Conference where he was invited to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker. There he was also requested to sign the new PESO Amendment Bill into law. The event was held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., he held a meeting with the Department of Finance at the Presidents Hall in Malcañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 28, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 2015 Community-Based Forest Management's National Greening Program Congress where he was invited as guest of honor and keynote speaker. In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., the officials from the International Civil Aviation Organization Council—led by its president Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu and its regional director for the Asia-Pacific Mr. Arun Mishra—paid the President a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he had a meeting with the Department of National Defense at the Presidents Hall in Malcañan Palace.

The President's Day: October 29, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 17th Asia Pacific Retail Convention and Exhibit (APRCE) where he was invited as guest of honor and keynote speaker. The APRCE is a biennial event organized by the Federation of Asia Pacific Retailers Association (FAPRA), which exhibits local and international retailers and suppliers. The exhibit was held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay. In the afternoon, at 4:00 p.m., he visited the tombs of his parents, President Corazon C. Aquino and senator Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino Jr., at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, ahead of the All Saints' Day Weekend.

The President's Day: November 2, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications at the Study Conference Room. Afterward, at 11:00 he met with Commissioner Heidi Mendoza, the newly appointed Undersecretary General of the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services, for a photo opportunity at the Reception Hall.

In the afternoon, he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

All meetings were conducted in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: November 3, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a briefing for the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) events, namely the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting and the APEC Business Advisory Council at the President's Hall, in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he met with the APEC Secretariat at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 4, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary at his Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he was interviewed by Karim Raslan, journalist for Malaysian newspaper, The Star, at the Music Room.

Afterward at 2:30 p.m., he had a meeting regarding El Niño at the Presidents Hall.

Finally at 3:30, he met with Father Jett Villarin SJ and Secretary Ramon Paje of the Department of Natural Resources at his Private Office.

All meetings were held in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: November 5, 2015

Today, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Ambassador-Designates of Sri Lanka, the European Union, France, and Switzerland presented their credentials to President Benigno S. Aquino at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace. To begin their tour of duty, every new ambassador to the Philippines goes through the Presentation of Credentials to the President of the Philippines—a diplomatic requirement in which the Philippine government formally recognizes an ambassador as the official representative of his or her country.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he met with the Department of Trade and Industry at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 6, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., Mrs. Nina Solarz, founder of the Stephen Solarz Memorial Fund and widow of former United States Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, paid a courtesy call to President Benigno S. Aquino III at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he had a meeting on the security for the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings at the President's Hall.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Economic and Development Authority, Presidential Communications Operations Office, and the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office. The meeting was on the National Household Targeting System and it was held at the Study Conference Room.

All meetings were held in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: November 9, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees Awards, which was held at Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. He was invited to confer the awards and to deliver a message at the awarding ceremonies, which is the highlight of Civil Service Commission's 115th anniversary celebration. During the annual celebration, the President of the Philippines confers the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Award, Dangal ng Bayan Award, and the CSC Pagasa Award to public service exemplars as the highest recognition granted by the government to state workers.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he met with the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 10, 2015

This morning, Convergys Corporation Board of Directors—headed by the company President and Chief Executive Officer Andrea Ayers—paid a courtesy call on President Benigno S. Aquino III at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace. Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., the Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi paid him a courtesy call at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. Over the course of the rest of the day, he conducted an inspection of the various venues of where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings are to be held.

The President's Day: November 11, 2015

President Benigno S. Aquino III had no official agenda for today.

The President's Day: November 12, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and his Cabinet Secretary.

In the afternoon, he met with his speechwriters.

Both meetings were held at the President's Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 13, 2015

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Departments of Finance, Transportation and Communications, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management, and Foreign Affairs, as well as his Executive Secretary, the Department of Justice, the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, and the Presidential Communications Operations Office.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with the Executive Secretary.

Both meetings were held at the President's Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 13, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Departments of Trade and Industry, Finance, Transportation and Communications, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management, Justice, and other officials from the Presidential Communications Operations Office, the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, along with Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the President's Hall, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: November 16, 2015

This week marks the beginning of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Week (AELW), the culmination of the Philippines' year-long hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings. At 10:00 a.m., the Chilean President Michelle Bachelet undertook her first state visit of the Philippines at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Week. President Aquino welcomed her to Malacañan Palace where they held a bilateral meeting. President Aquino also witnessed the signing of an agreement between the two countries. During the joint press conference that followed, he delivered a speech. Afterward, he held a luncheon in her honor where he also delivered a toast. In the afternoon, at 3:30 p.m., President Aquino delivered an address at the APEC CEO Summit, which was held at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. The APEC CEO Summit is the most prestigious business event in the region. It is the premier platform for APEC leaders and business executives to discuss the future of Asia-Pacific economies, with a focus on expanding trade and investment opportunities.

The President's Day: November 17, 2015

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III spoke at the APEC Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Summit 2015, which was held at Green Sun Arts/Creative Hub in Makati City. The APEC SME Summit 2015 brought together the region's micro, small, and medium-sized business entrepreneurs to share success stories of SME innovation and internationalization, and to highlight institutional support to drive innovation-based SME growth. Afterward, he welcomed Prime Minister of the Independent State Papua New Guinea Peter O'Neill to Malacañan Palace. The two leaders held a bilateral meeting in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to formalize diplomatic relations with Papua New Guinea in 1975.

He then received the President of the Republic of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos for a courtesy call Malacañan Palace. In the afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., President Aquino welcomed President Truong Tan Sang of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Malacañan Palace.

The Philippine and Vietnamese delegations held a bilateral meeting, witnessed the signing of bilateral agreements, after which the two leaders delivered a joint press statement.

Later, he received President of the United Mexican States Enrique Nieto Peña, who was in the country on a state visit, in the Rizal Hall of Malacañan Palace. President Peña will also be attending the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Finally, President Aquino held a state dinner in President Peña's honor at Malacañan Palace. There he delivered a toast.

The President's Day: November 18, 2015

This morning, at 8:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the President of the United States of America Barack Obama at the Sofitel Hotel in Pasay City. The two leaders had a bilateral meeting, after which they held a joint press conference where they outlined the agenda of the meeting. At 9:40 a.m., President Aquino met with the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull for a bilateral meeting. They held a joint press conference afterward. Afterward, at 12:45 p.m., he met with the the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev for a bilateral meeting. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., President Aquino officially welcomed the leaders and representatives of the APEC member-economies to the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City for the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) activities. He delivered the welcome remarks for the event. At 3:00 p.m., he led the plenary session with APEC Leaders and the ABAC members. The session was followed by a breakout dialogue among the leaders at 3:15 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., President Aquino opened the informal conversation with the Pacific Alliance with a speech.

Afterward, at 5:30 p.m., he had a bilateral meeting with the newly-elected Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau. In the evening, at 7:30 p.m., the President hosted and delivered the toast at the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting welcome dinner, which was held in the Mall of Asia arena in Pasay City.

The President's Day: November 19, 2015

This morning, at 9:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed the APEC Economic Leaders to the second day of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM), which was held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. President Aquino joined them for a family photo.

At 10:00 a.m., he attended the Session on the Regional and Global Economy.

Afterward, at 10:30 a.m., he delivered the opening remarks for the first APEC Leaders' Retreat.

At 12:45 p.m., President Aquino attended the Leaders' Luncheon.

After the luncheon, he, along with his fellow Economic Leaders, reconvened for the second APEC Leaders' Retreat.

At 4:30 p.m., as chair of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the President held the Adjournment Ceremony for AELM.

Afterward, at 5:30 p.m., he held a press conference at the International Media Center at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. There, he delivered a statement where he cited agreements forged among Economic Leaders, and thanked his fellow countrymen for making the Philippines' hosting of APEC a success. In the evening, at 6:15 p.m., he held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key at the Sofitel Hotel in Pasay City. Afterward, he had bilateral talks with Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe at the Sofitel Hotel in Philippine Plaza. During their meeting, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of agreement between two countries. A joint press conference was held afterward.

At 8:15 p.m., President Aquino hosted a Social Dinner for the Prime Minister of Japan and his delegation.

The President's Day: November 20, 2015

Today, at 2:45 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III departed for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 27th ASEAN Summit. Before leaving, he delivered a departure statement at NAIA Terminal 2, in Pasay City. Upon his arrival to Kuala Lumpur, President Aquino was greeted by Malaysian officials and the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Eduardo Malaya III.

The President's Day: November 21, 2015

From November 20 to 22, 2015, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. Today, at 9:00 a.m., President Aquino attended the opening ceremonies of the 27th ASEAN Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. At 10:00 a.m., he attended the 27th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session. Afterward, at 11:45 a.m., he joined other leaders of ASEAN member-states in the signing of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. At noon, he attended the lunch hosted by Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Razak in honor of ASEAN Heads of State and their respective delegates.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., President Aquino attended the 18th ASEAN-China Summit.

Afterward, at 2:15 p.m., he attended the 13th ASEAN-India Summit.

The ASEAN-India dialogue relations have grown rapidly from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992, to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995. The relationship was further elevated with the convening of the ASEAN – India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then, the ASEAN – India Summit has been held annually.

At 3:30 p.m., President Aquino attended the 18th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit. Since the process began in 1997, the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation has broadened and deepened through collaboration in the areas of food and energy security, financial cooperation, trade facilitation, disaster management, and people-to-people contacts, among others.

At 5:00 p.m., he attended the APT Leaders' Interface with the East Asia Business Council.

Afterward, at 5:45 p.m., he attended the 3rd ASEAN-United States of America Summit. The ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations have been progressing well since its establishment in 1977. In addition to the exchange of views on political and security matters in the early stages of the dialogue relations, both sides gave priority to cooperation in commodities, market and capital access, transfer of technology, development of energy resources, and shipping and food security.

In the evening, at 8:30 p.m., President Aquino attended the gala dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Razak in honor of the ASEAN and East Asia Summit Heads of State, United Nations Secretary-General, and their respective delegations.

The President's Day: November 22, 2015

From November 20 to 22, 2015, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. Over the weekend, the President and other world leaders discussed a range of issues integral to the growth and security of our community. Among these are how to combat pandemics, terrorism, and human trafficking, as well as how to deepen areas of cooperation and promote regional stability. This morning, at 9:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III joined fellow heads of state at the ASEAN-New Zealand 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit, which was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center. At 10:15 a.m., President Aquino, representing the Philippines, joined fellow leaders of ASEAN member-nations at the Signing Ceremony of the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he attended the 10th East Asia Summit. The East Asia Summit is a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Razak.

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he attended the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit. ASEAN and Japan first established informal dialogue relations in 1973, which was later formalized in March 1977 with the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Forum. Since then, significant progress has been made in ASEAN-Japan relations and cooperation spanning from the areas of political-security, economic-financial, to socio-cultural. At 3:15 p.m., he attended the 17th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit. At 4:30 p.m., he attended the 7th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit. During the summit, UN President Ban Ki-Moon delivered a speech.

At 5:30 p.m., President Aquino joined fellow leaders at the negotiations on the joint statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The RCEP is a free trade proposal between the ASEAN member-states and the six states that the ASEAN states have existing free trade agreements with: Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., President Aquino, along with fellow leaders, formally closed the 27th ASEAN Summit at the closing ceremony. The ASEAN Chairmanship was then handed over to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Afterward, at 7:00 p.m., he sat down for coffee and answered questions from the Philippine media at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. At 9:15 p.m., President Aquino departed for Manila. Upon his return to the Philippines he delivered a statement.

The President's Day: November 24, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a briefing on Lumad concerns at the President's Hall, in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, he met with Lumad leaders.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he attended a briefing for his coming visits to France, Italy, and the Vatican at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., the President was attended and spoke at the inauguration of Pointwest Technologies Corporation Delivery Center, at Rockwell Business Center on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. Established in 2003, Pointwest is a fully Filipino IT-BPM enterprise servicing global clientele, employing over 1,100 Filipino professionals.

The President's Day: November 25, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretaries at his private office in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with his Executive Secretary at the Blue Room, in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: November 26, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretaries.

In the afternoon, he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his speechwriters.

All meetings were held at the President's private office in Malacañan Palace.

At 5:00 p.m., he attended and spoke at the book launch of *The Aquino Legacy: An Enduring Narrative*. The book was written by Mr. Elfren Cruz and Mrs. Neni Sta. Romana Cruz. The book features a collection of essays on the Aquino family and their contributions to the country—from Senator Ninoy Aquino and President Corazon C. Aquino to son, the incumbent President.

The President's Day: November 26, 2015

This morning at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr..

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he met with his speechwriters.

All meetings were held in the President's Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: November 27, 2015

This morning, at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III along with his family, commemorated the birthday of his father, the late Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

In the morning, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with his speechwriters at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila

The President's Day: November 29, 2015

Today marked the beginning of President Benigno S. Aquino III's weeklong trip to Europe. This morning, at 10:00 a.m., the President departed Manila for Paris from NAIA Terminal 2 in Pasay City. Before to his departure he delivered a statement. At 5:00 p.m., Paris local time, the President and his delegation arrived at Le Bourget Airport in Paris, France. He was welcomed by Philippine Ambassador to France, Ma. Theresa Lazaro.

Afterward, at 5:45 p.m., he checked into Hotel Scribe.

The President's Day: November 30, 2015

This morning, at 10:15 a.m., Paris time, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed from Hotel Scribe in Paris to Parc des Expositions in Le Bourget. At 11:00 a.m., the president, along with other world leaders, formally began the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) with the Opening Ceremony of the Leaders, which was held at Plenary Seine in the COP21 Conference Center.

Afterward, at 11:30 a.m., he joined the family photo.

At 12:00, he attended the delivery of national statements at Plenary Seine, in the COP21 Conference Center.

At 1:30 p.m., he attended the formal lunch, which was jointly hosted by President of France Francois Hollande and the President of COP21, Mr. Laurent Fabius.

In the afternoon, at 2:45 p.m., the president delivered his national statement at Plenary Loire, in the COP21 Conference Center. Plenary Loire is the designated plenary room of the President.

At 4:45 p.m., at the sidelines of COP21, President Aquino chaired the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) High Level Event, which was held at Le Maroni of the Blue Zone in at the UNFCCC Le Bourget Site. At the event, he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: December 1, 2015

This morning, at 9:00 a.m., Paris time, President Benigno S. Aquino III witnessed the signing of the Memorandum for Understanding (MOU) between Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and Vivapolis France. The MOU was signed by BCDA President and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova and Vivapolis Sustainable Cities Senior Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Michele Pappalardo. Afterward, at 9:40 a.m., the President attended a business meeting with Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH). CRH supplies raw materials and finished products for construction applications and distributes supply products to professional building contractors and homeowners.

At 10:10 a.m., he attended a business meeting with Jacobi Carbons Group AB (Jacobi). The company specializes in activated carbon derived coconut shell, various grades of coal, and wood. It was founded in 1916 and is based in Sweden.

Afterward, at 10:40 a.m., President Aquino attended a business meeting with Airbus. Airbus Group is composed of Airbus (produces commercial aircrafts), Airbus Helicopters, and Airbus Defense and Space (produces fighter jets, among others). Its subsidiary in the Philippines, Airbus Helicopters Philippines, Inc. (AHPI), sells brand new and pre-owned helicopters, and operates a service facility for helicopter maintenance and a training center for technicians. It is the only helicopter original equipment manufacturer with a maintenance facility in the Philippines. At 11:10 a.m., the President received Sanofi Pasteur officials, as requested by Ms. Conchita Santos, Country Manager of Sanofi Pasteur (Philippines). At 12:10 p.m., the President and his delegation visited some of Usine IO's facilities (3D printing, electronics, laser cutting areas) and have a tour of the workshop. Usine IO is a membership-based workshop in Paris dedicated to hardware technologies and startups. It serves as an innovation and hardware prototyping platform or launchpad for hardware products. In the afternoon, at 4:00 p.m., President Aquino departed from Paris, France, for Rome, Italy.

The President's Day: December 2, 2015

This afternoon, at 5:00 p.m., Rome time, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a bilateral meeting with President of Italy Sergio Mattarella at the Sala de Bronzino of the Quirinal Palace. Afterward, at 6:00 p.m., he had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Italy Matteo Renzi at the Palazzo Chigi.

The President's Day: December 3, 2015

This afternoon, at 5:00 p.m., Rome time, President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Filipino community in Rome at the Leptis Magna I & II Function Room of the Ergife Palace Hotel. He delivered a speech.

The President's Day: December 4, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., Rome time, President Benigno S. Aquino III was received by His Holiness Pope Francis for a private audience at the Sala del Trono and the Papal Library of the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City.

Afterward, at 10:30, he attended a meet-and-greet with the Cardinal Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

At 11:05, the President led the unveiling and witnessed the blessing of the mosaic image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia at the Vatican Gardens. Our Lady of Peñafrancia is the official patroness of the Bicol region and is highly revered for her blessings of healing. Created by Italian mosaicist Mr. Roberto Cassio, the mosaic image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia shall be installed in the Vatican Gardens to join other images of the Blessed Virgin Mary contributed by other countries.

At 12:00, he had coffee with the Philippine media.

Late in the afternoon, at 5:00 p.m., the President departed Rome for Manila from the Fiumicino airport.

The President's Day: December 5, 2015

This afternoon, at 1:15 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III arrived from his working visit to France, Italy, and the Vatican. Upon his arrival at NAIA II in Pasay City, he delivered a statement. Afterward, he attended the joint turnover and blessing of the two FA-50 aircrafts and other newly acquired air assets at the Kalayaan Lounge Open Ramp in Villamor Airbase, Pasay City.

The President's Day: December 7, 2015

This morning, at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. Both meetings were held at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., the President attended the grand launch of the first Din Tai Fung restaurant in the Philippines, located at the ground floor of the SM Mega Fashion Hall in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Din Tai Fung is a Michelin Star-awarded Taiwanese restaurant with branches worldwide.

The President's Day: December 8, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

Afterward, at 12:00 p.m., he attended a lunch with Representatives at Heroes Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 pm., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: December 9, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received Mr. Richard Li, Chairman CEO of Pacific Century CyberWorks (PCCW) for a courtesy call. PCCW is the the holding company of HKT Group Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong based information and communications technology company. They met at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace, Manila. In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he attended and delivered the keynote address at this year's Integrity Summit. Launched in 2010, the Integrity Initiative is a private sector-led campaign aiming at strengthening ethical standards in business. The Integrity Summit aims to recognize the private sector's effort and commitment to develop a culture of integrity alongside the creation of strategic integrity alliances across all sectors. Themed "Investing in Integrity," this year's event invited all sectors to heed the call to go beyond fighting corruption and move toward building systems for integrity. The summit was held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-la hotel. In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., the president attended and delivered a speech at the 30th anniversary of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which was held at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom in Pasay City.

*All photos are from the Malacañang Photo Bureau.

The President's Day: December 11, 2015

This morning, at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered a speech at the annual Bulong Pulungan Christmas Party. Founded in 1986, Bulong Pulungan is the oldest-running news forum in the country with a panel of guests from the government and private sectors. The party was held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., he attended the Malacañang Press Corps Christmas Party. The party was held at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: December 14, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered a message at the Pamaskong Handog event hosted by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). Afterward, he led the distribution of over 3,000 food packs to senior citizens, members of Tricycle Owners and Drivers Associations, and street sweepers of Quezon City. The event was held at

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Private Office in Malcañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: December 16, 2016

President Benigno S. Aquino III presides over the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board Meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of the Malacañan Palace on Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Today, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino presided over the National Economic and Development Authority board meeting, which was held at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room of Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 17, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting on the commemoration of the 30th EDS People Power revolution. The meeting was held at the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with the Department of Finance and the Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG) at the President's Hall of Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 18, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino met with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he met with the Department of National Defense at the President's Hall.

Afterward, at 3:00 p.m., he met with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance at the President's Hall.

All meetings were held in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: December 19, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III spoke at the 80th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), where he was invited to be the guest of honor. The annual AFP Anniversary Ball gathers its key leaders and movers who contributed to the achievement of the AFP's goals for the year. The celebration was held at the Haribon Hangar of the Clark Airbase in Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

In the afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., he met with the Department of Budget and Management at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: December 22, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino signed the 2016 National Budget at Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. during the budget signing he delivered a speech. In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he presented awards to key personalities who ensured the successful hosting of the Philippines' 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) at the APEC awarding ceremony. The awarding was held at Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., he attended a video shoot for his 2015 Christmas message at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: December 23, 2015

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Northern Samar and Oriental Mindoro to assess the damage caused by Typhoon Nona. This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a briefing and helped with the distribution of goods in Cataman, Northern Samar.

In the afternoon, at 1:45 p.m., he inspected the damages in Juan Morente, Sr. Memorial Pilot Elementary School, in Barangay Zone IV, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

At 2:00 p.m., he attended a briefing and helped distribute goods in Pinamalayan Stadium, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

The President's Day: December 28, 2015

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and the Department of Budget and Management at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he visited the wake of Colonel Emmanuel V. de Ocampo, former Director and Chairman of the Board of the Philippine Veterans Bank. His wake was held at Sanctuary on G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Later, at 5:00 p.m., he visited the wake of Philippine Daily Inquirer editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. Magsanoc was also editor of Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, a weekly tabloid magazine that opposed the Marcos dictatorship. Magsanoc's wake was held at Aeternum, in Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio.

The President's Day: December 29, 2015

This evening, at 9:30 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino attended the necrological service for the late Philippine Daily inquirer Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsano. During the service, he delivered a eulogy in her honor. It was held at Aeternum in The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The President's Day: December 30, 2015

This morning, at 8:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led the commemoration of the 119th anniversary of the Martyrdom of National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal, which was held at Rizal Park, in Luneta, Manila. For the commemoration, he led the flag-raising and wreath-bearing rites. [Read the President's message.](#)

The President's Day: January 6, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he had a meeting regarding the situation in the Middle East.

All meetings were held at the Private Office, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 7, 2016

This morning, at 11:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the President's Hall, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he led the Oath taking ceremony of the newly appointed Government Officials at Rizal Hall, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

Afterward, at 3:00 p.m., he was paid a courtesy call by the Honorable Philip Hammond, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Their meeting was held at the Music Room, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 8, 2016

This afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered the keynote address at the inauguration of the 300-megawatt Davao Baseload Power Plant. The 300-MW Davao Baseload Power Plant is the first major baseload power plant to be completed in Mindanao since 2007, and complements the region's hydro and geothermal resources. The power plant delivers reliable baseload power to more than 20 electric cooperatives and distribution utilities in Mindanao, employing 4,500 people mostly from host communities. The power plant is located at the boundary of Brgy. Binugao, Toril, in Davao City and Brgy. Inawayan, Sta. Cruz, in Davao del Sur.

The President's Day: January 11, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the conferment of the Order of Sikatuna awards ceremony at the Reception Hall, in Malacañan Palace, Manila. The rank of Grand Cross, Gold Distinction (Datu, Katangiang Ginto) were conferred on His Excellency Ambassador Carlos Salinas, Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and on His Excellency Ambassador Manuel Lopez, Philippine Ambassador to Japan. The Order of Sikatuna is the national order of diplomatic merit of the Republic of the Philippines. Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he swore in the newly appointed generals and flag officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at the AFP oath-taking, which was held at Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Finance at the Study Conference Room, in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: January 12, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received the credentials of the newly appointed resident and non-resident ambassadors to the Philippines. The newly sworn in ambassadors are His Excellency Tumur Lkhagvadorj of Mongolia, His Excellency Yahya Ngam of Mauritania, His Excellency Drazen Margeta of Croatia, Her Excellency Amanda Louise Gorely of Australia, His Excellency Mohammad Tanhaei of Iran, His Excellency Marcin Kubiak of Poland, His Excellency Askhat Orzabay of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Nasreddine Rimouche of Algeria, and His Excellency Abubacarr Jah of Zambia. The ceremony was held at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

He delivered a speech during the event.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he was paid a courtesy call by students from Harvard Business School, at the Presidents Hall Sala in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 13, 2016 This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered the keynote address at the Conference on Sustaining the Gains of the Conditional Cash Transfer in the Philippines. The conference was held at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters, in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The conference examined the uniqueness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, discussed lessons learned from this experience, and proposed enhancements to the existing model.

In the afternoon at 1:30 p.m., he had a meeting with the Department of Transportation and Communications at the Presidents Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 14, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III hosted and delivered the toast at the annual Vin d'Honneur to start off the year. The event was held at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace. The Vin d'Honneur is a traditional morning reception—now called the “vin d'honneur” (pronounced “von duh nyur”)—and takes place biannually at Malacañan Palace: first and primarily to mark the new year, and second, held on June 12, to celebrate the anniversary of Philippine Independence.

After the reception, President Aquino was joined by Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong, the founder, chairman, and CEO of Jollibee Foods Corporation for a photo opportunity at the Music Room, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Study Conference Room in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 15, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered the keynote address at the 3rd Global Business Summit (GSBS) and Opening of Gawad Kalinga's (GK) 13th Anniversary Expo, which was held at the Hyundai Center for Green Innovation of the GK Enchanted Farm in Angat, Bulacan. Afterward, at 11:30 a.m., he attended and delivered a speech at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System Signing of Concession Agreement of the Bulacan Bulk water Supply, which was held at Malolos, Bulacan. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he delivered a speech at the East-West Center (EWC) Association International Conference. The conference* is a biennial event, which was held in the Philippines for the first time with the theme "Bridging Diverse Cultures Towards an Inclusive Asia Pacific Community."

*About 300 EWC alumni will participate in the 3-day conference, which aims to broaden relations and understanding among EWC alumni throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the US on a range of key regional topics. The conference will be held at the Manila Hotel.

The President's Day: January 18, 2016

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

At 12:00 n.n., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he attended a briefing regarding the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 19, 2016

This morning, at 11:20 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the wake of Attorney Democrito Mendoza, founder of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippine (TUCP). The wake was held at the convention hall of the JSU-PSU Mariner's Court, Associated Labor Unions–Vicomtu Compound, in Pier Uno, Cebu City.

The President's Day: January 20, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environmental awards, which was held at Rizal Hall in Malacañang Palace. During the ceremony he delivered a speech. Given annually, the awards recognize the private minerals sectors' initiatives and exemplary achievements in the protection of the environment.

At 12:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Private Office in Malacañang Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he had a meeting with officials from the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at the Study Conference Room in Malacañang Palace.

Late in the afternoon, at 5:00 p.m., the president delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2016, which was held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Themed "One Community for Sustainability," the forum is an annual gathering of ASEAN member states' tourism ministers, which serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas, review of industry developments, and joint formulation of recommendations to further accelerate the growth of ASEAN tourism. This year's ATF marks the 35th anniversary of the event. It will launch the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which aims to work not only on the development and growth of the region's tourism, but also ensure that growth is grounded on responsible, sustainable, and inclusive tourism.

The President's Day: January 21, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with the Secretary of Justice Alfredo Caguioa, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Mel Sarmiento, and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., he was received the Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines, Dato Mohd Zambri Bin Mohd Kassim for a farewell call, at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., he attended and delivered the annual Friedrich Naumann Foundation Freedom Speech. The event is also a yearly gathering of liberal friends and network, which includes the Liberal Party (LP), civil society leaders, members of the academe, international community, and media. The event was held at Plaza Moriones, in Fort Santiago, Manila.

The President's Day: January 22, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry at the President's Hall.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. at the Private Office.

Both meetings were held in Malacañang Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: January 25, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor at the Philippine National Police (PNP) anniversary at Camp Crame. During the event, they commemorated the heroism of the 44 members of the Special Action Forces, where they posthumously awarded the Medal of Valor—the highest distinction of the Philippine National Police, and other awards. Later in the day, at 2:00 p.m., the President was in Kalayaan Hall, Malacañan Palace for a scheduled video shoot.

The President's Day: January 26, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., Ms. Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach paid a courtesy call on President Benigno S. Aquino III at Malacañan Palace. At 2:45 p.m., he welcomed Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to the Philippines at an arrival ceremony at the AGES Aviation Center, Pasay. The Emperor and Empress are here on a state visit from January 26 to 30.

The President's Day: January 27, 2016

Today is the state visit of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan. Their visit marks the 60th year of Philippine-Japanese diplomatic relations.

This morning, at 10:20 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III welcomed the Emperor and Empress in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace.

In the evening, at 7:20 p.m., a state dinner was held in honor of Their Majesties, where both President Aquino and Emperor Akihito gave toasts.

The President's Day: January 28, 2016

In the evening, at 7:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was the guest of honor at the reception ceremony in the residence of Japanese Ambassador Ishikawa. The reception was held in honor of the state visit of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to the Philippines.

The President's Day: January 29, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino held various meetings in the Study Conference Room at Malacañan Palace.

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., he met with the Executive Secretary Pacquito Ochoa, officials from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Later in the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with officials from the Department of Finance and officials from DBM.

His last meeting for the day at 2:00 p.m. was with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication.

The President's Day: January 30, 2016

Today, at 11:00 a.m, President Benigno S. Aquino III led the departure ceremonies in honor of Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who were in the Philippines for a five-day visit. Their historic state visit coincides with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines.

The President's Day: February 1, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from the Papal Legate and the Pontifical Delegation to the 51st International Eucharistic Congress (IEC)

Held last week, from January 24-31, the 51st IEC is the second to be held in the Philippines, with the first one being hosted in Manila in 1937.

Among the members of the delegation were His Eminence Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, SDB, Papal Legate and Archbishop of Yangon; His Excellency Jose Palma, Archbishop of Cebu; His Excellency John Saw Yaw Han, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon; Rev. Fr. Marvin Mejia, Secretary General, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines; Rev. Fr. Dominic Bar Bu, Secretary General of the Cardinal; and Rev. Msgr. Chibuike Onyeaghala, First Counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature.

The President's Day: February 2, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the Department of Social Welfare, which took place in Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace. In his speech at the event, the President lauded the agency for its service to the Filipino people: “Kitang-kita na ang pagbabago sa inyong ahensiya. May sapat na tayong pondo, kaya’t di na kailangan ng malawakang panawagan para sa mga donasyon. Kapag sinabing DSWD, ang agad nang maiisip: handang-handa at alisto. Kababalita pa lang na may paparating na bagyo, automatic na ang prepositioning ng ayuda. Nariyan ang buong ahensiya, kumpleto ang datos, para makapaghanda nang tama at maayos.”

The President's Day: February 3, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended a meeting with the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office, Malacañan Palace.

At 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon, the President met with officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government at the President's Hall.

In the evening, at 6:00 p.m., President Aquino joined the Manila Bulletin in commemorating their 116th anniversary. Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation (MB) was founded as the Daily Bulletin on February 2, 1900; it was incorporated on June 12, 1912 as Bulletin Publishing Company and re-incorporated in 1959.

The President's Day: February 4, 2016

This morning, the President presided over two meetings in the Study Conference Room at Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., he met with officials from the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Executive Secretary (ES).

Afterwards, at 11:00 a.m., the President met with officials from the Department of Justice, DOF, DBM, and the ES.

The President's Day: February 5, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III presided over several meetings in Malacañan Palace.

At 10:00 a.m., he met with the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet Secretary in the Private Office.

Before lunch at 11:00 a.m., President Aquino met with the Executive Secretary and the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at the Blue Room.

In the afternoon at 1:00 p.m., he met with officials from the Department of Budget and Management and the Executive Secretary in the same venue.

The President's Day: February 8, 2016

Today is the birthday of President Benigno S. Aquino III. In the evening, at 7:00 p.m., he held his birthday dinner in Malago, at the Presidential Security Group compound.

The President's Day: February 9, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Capiz and Iloilo to inaugurate several infrastructure projects to meet with the communities there.

His first stop was Capiz, Roxas City. At 10:00 a.m., President Aquino inaugurated the 6,200th km of the National Road junction connecting Mianay-Duyoc-Calaan-Panitan.

He also delivered a speech during the inauguration ceremony.

Afterwards, at 11:30 a.m., he met with local leaders and the Capiz community in the Capiz Gymnasium, Roxas City, where he also delivered a speech.

In the afternoon, he visited Iloilo, where he led the inauguration and formal turn-over of a brand-new three-storey, 18-classroom school building donated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to Pavia National High School (PNHS), the only public high school in the Municipality of Pavia, Iloilo.

His final event for the day, at 6:30 p.m., was held in the Freedom Grandstand, Iloilo City, where he also met with local leaders and the community, where he gave a few remarks.

The President's Day: February 10, 2016

This morning at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the general assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, held in Pasay City this morning. In his speech, the President commended the group for its dynamic, pro-people, and patriotic alliance, championing excellence in local governance. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he received Mitsubishi Motors Corporation President Osamu for a courtesy call in Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: February 11, 2016

This morning at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the national assembly of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, and the forum on Bottom-Up Budgeting. In his address, the President urged barangay officials to continue using the BuB program—wherein local communities partner with the national government in implementing priority projects—for the good of the citizenry: “Tumataas ang estado ng bawat komunidad, at direkta silang nabibigyang-lakas na isulong pa ang positibong transpormasyon na maghahatid ng pakinabang sa lahat.”

At 2:00 p.m., the President returned to Malacañan Palace to meet with the Executive Secretary in the Private Office.

The President's Day: February 12, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Camarines Sur to inaugurate an infrastructure project and to meet with the communities there.

At 11:40 a.m., the President inaugurated the Pili Diversion Road project, in Pili, Camarines Sur.

During the inauguration, he delivered a speech, lauding the efforts of the local government of Camarines Sur and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Later, at 2:30 p.m., he met with the community and local leaders of Iriga.

He then visited Naga City, where he met with the local community, and visited the burial site of former Naga City mayor and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo, at the Eternal Gardens in Naga City.

During the meeting with local leaders, he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: February 15, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III will depart for the United States for a working visit. He will attend a special summit between the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States. He left the Philippines at 12:00 p.m.

The President's Day: February 16, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III departed Palm Springs for Los Angeles to attend several meetings and the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. At 5:00 p.m., he met with Walt Disney International officials—led by its chairman Andy Bird and its vice president for global public policy Jim Filippatos—as part of his working visit to Los Angeles, California. At 5:30 p.m., he met with Western Digital Corporation officials—led by its chief executive officer Stephen Milligan and its chief legal officer Michael Ray. At 6:00 p.m., he met with Enterprise Growth Solutions officials—led by its AECOM group president Michael Donnelly and its global emerging markets leader Hugh Doyle.

All meetings were held at the Grand Chateau, Intercontinental Hotel.

At 7:00 p.m., President Aquino delivered the keynote speech at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a forum his father Benigno Aquino Jr. once spoke in during their exile to the United States.

In his remarks, the President bid: “Countries the world over must continue working to find commonalities and harmonize efforts, to give rise to a world order that allows people to live with peace, dignity, and contentment in their homes.” In the evening, at 8:00 p.m., he had Coffee with Media at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The President's Day: February 17, 2016

The President is in the United States for a working visit, following his participation in the special ASEAN-US Summit. At 12:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III was conferred an Honorary Degree in Humane Letters by the Loyola Marymount University, in recognition of his integrity, dedication to country, and embodiment of Jesuit education. The LMU is the third Jesuit institution to confer an honorary degree on the President. In the evening, at 7:30 p.m., the President met with members of its Filipino community. During the event, he delivered a speech and conferred upon Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia Jr. the Order of Sikatuna.

The President's Day: February 19, 2016

This morning, at 6:50 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III returned home from California. The President's plane, upon entering Philippine airspace, was escorted by two FA-50 Golden Eagle fighter jets—among the twelve air assets of its kind acquired by the government to augment our Air Force.

The President's Day: February 22, 2016

This afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Secretary of Justice Alfredo Caguioa.

Afterward, at 2:00 p.m., he had a meeting with officials from the Department of National Defense.

Both meetings were held at the Private Office, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: February 23, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III was in Bulacan.

In the afternoon, at 1:25 p.m., he departed from Area 3 in Malacañang, Manila for Bulacan.

At 1:55 p.m., he visited the wake of Carolina V. Cariño, mother of television presented Jorge Cariño. The wake was held at the Cariño Residence in Brgy. Sta. Elena, Hagonoy Bulacan.

At 2:30 p.m., he attended a briefing on major infrastructure projects in Bulacan at the Ramona S. Trillana High School in Hagonoy. While there he also inspected PAGCOR's two-storey ten-classroom building which will serve as an annex to the high school. Following the briefing and inspection, the President delivered a speech. Afterward, at 4:00 p.m., he delivered a speech during the meeting with local leaders and the community at the Bulacan Sports complex, in Malolos.

Early in the evening, at 5:30 p.m., the President departed Bulacan for Malcañang.

The President's Day: February 24, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Nueva Ecija. At 1:35 p.m., he led and delivered a speech at the ceremonial switch-on for the electrification of 1,197 sitios in Region III. The ceremony was held at the Edita S. Bueno Gymnasium, at the Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Area I, in Brgy. Calipahan, in Talavera. Prior to his departure for Manila, at 3:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and community. During the event he delivered a speech. The event was held at the Pagasa Gymnasium in Brgy. F.E. Marcos, in San Jose City.

At 4:00 p.m., he departed Nueva Ecija for Manila.

The President's Day: February 25, 2016

From 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended to various EDSA anniversary activities. To open the celebrations, the President led a flag-raising ceremony, witnessed the presentation of the Spirit of EDSA Foundation Awards, and delivered a speech. The commemoration was held at the EDSA People Power Monument, located on the corner of White Plains Avenue and EDSA in Quezon City. Later in the day, he visited the People Power Experiential Museum in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The museum helps visitors experience critical moments in recent history, such as the fear and oppression that was rampant during the Martial Law era, the struggle to reclaim democracy, and the four miraculous days of People Power. The exhibit ran through February 25 to 26, 2016, in Camp Aguinaldo.

The President's Day: February 26, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with his Presidential Management Staff, and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras, in the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with officials from the Department of Finance, and the Department of Budget and Management, in the Private Office.

At 2:00 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa in the Blue Room.

The President's Day: February 28, 2016

This afternoon, at 3:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended and delivered a message at the memorial service for Ambassador Steven Bosworth. The memorial service was held at the Church of the Holy Trinity, in McKinley Road, Forbes Park. Stephen W. Bosworth, was a former US ambassador to the Philippines, who helped shepherd the transition to democracy in the Philippines after the decades-long rule of President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

The President's Day: February 29, 2016

This morning, at 10:30 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the reinterment of the remains of the late President Elpidio Quirino, the sixth president of the Philippines. President Quirino's remains were transferred from the Manila South Cemetery to the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City, Metro Manila. President Quirino will be the third president to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, joining President Carlos Garcia and President Diosdado Macapagal. This event is part of the commemorative events for President Quirino's 125th birth anniversary, and coincides with his 60th death anniversary.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., President Aquino attended a photo shoot.

The President's Day: March 1, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with his Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

Both meetings were held at the Private Office in Malacañang Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 3:30 p.m., the President attended the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Presidential Security Group (PSG). The celebration was held at the PSG Grandstand in Malacañang Park, Manila. During the ceremonies the President delivered a speech.

The President's Day: March 2, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Bohol.

At 12:30 p.m., he departed from Manila for Tagbilaran City.

Upon arrival, at 1:55 p.m., he attended the time capsule-laying and briefing on the Panglao airport, which was followed by the switch-on ceremony for the electrification of the 2,684 sitios in Region VII under the administration's Sitio Electrification Program. The event was held at Barangay Lourdes, in Panglao. Afterward, at 3:30 p.m., he met with the local leaders and the community at the Bohol Cultural Center, at Carlos P. Garcia Avenue North, in Tagbilaran City. During the event he delivered a speech.

At 4:40 p.m., he departed from Tagbilaran City for Lapu-lapu City where he stayed for the evening.

The President's Day: March 3, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Cebu. At 1:45 he attended at the inauguration of the new PAGCOR four-storey, 20-classroom school building, which will be annexed to the Guadalupe Elementary School. The inauguration was held at Guadalupe Elementary School, along V. Rama Avenue, in Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City. He delivered a speech during the ceremony. Afterward, at 3:10 p.m., he joined the inspection of the Restoration Works for Fort San Pedro. The inspection was held at Fort San Pedro, on A. Pigafetta Street. At 3:45 p.m., he attended the turnover of the restored heritage sites of the restored Basilica Minore del Santo Niño de Cebu. He was invited as guest of honor and keynote speaker. The Basilica will be turned over to the Augustinian Order in Cebu. The earthquake of October 15, 2013, toppled the belfry and several portions of the masonry walls. The restoration project started on June 15, 2015, and was completed January 12, 2016. The Basilica is located along Osmeña Boulevard.

At 5:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and community, to whom he also delivered a message. The event was held at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex, in Barangay Centro, Mandaue City.

Later, at 6:00 p.m., he departed Cebu for Manila.

The President's Day: March 4, 2016

This morning, President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., he met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communication.

At 2:00 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

Both meetings were held at the Private Office, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: March 7, 2016

At noon, President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he joined the Liberal Party Candidates for a pictorial session at the Liberal Party National Headquarters, Balay, in Cubao.

The President's Day: March 8, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Study Conference Room of Malacañan Palace, Manila. At 7:00 p.m., he attended the grand inauguration of the Novotel Hotel in Araneta Center, Cubao where he also delivered a speech. The Novotel Hotel in Araneta Center is the first in the Philippines, joining Sofitel Hotel as one of the ventures of the AccorHotels Group in the Philippines. AccorHotels is a French-based hotel group, which operates in 94 countries.

The President's Day: March 9, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the provinces of Batangas and Laguna. This morning, at 10:00 a.m., the President attended and delivered a speech at the Philippine Air Force Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony. Honored at the event was Lieutenant General Jefferey Delgado, 33rd Pilot-in-Command of the Philippine Air Force and veteran combat pilot. The event was held at the Air Education and Training Command, Fernando Air Base, in Lipa City, Batangas. Later in the day, he met with local leaders from and members of the community where he delivered a speech.

The President's Day: March 10, 2016

At 10:00 a.m., he attended and delivered a speech at the Philippine National Police (PNP) 37th Commencement Exercises for the MASUNDAYAW Class of 2016. The ceremony was held at the PNPA Grandstand, in Camp General Mariano N. Castañeda, Silang. In the afternoon, at 4:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and community and delivered a speech. The event was held at the Dasmariñas National High School Open Field, in Dasmariñas.

The President's Day: March 11, 2016

President Benigno S. Aquino III has no official agenda for today.

The President's Day: March 13, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited Baguio City. At 10:00 a.m., he attended the commencement exercises of Philippine Military Academy's (PMA) Gabay-Laya Class, the graduating class of 2016. As guest of honor, he delivered the commencement speech. The event was held at the Philippine Military Academy in Fort General Gregorio H. del Pilar, in Baguio City. At 2:00 p.m., he attended the Merienda Cena for the PMA Class of 2016, which was held at the Open Grounds behind the conference hall of The Mansion House. At 4:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and members of the Baguio community at the President Fidel V. Ramos Multi-Purpose Youth Action Center, in Upper Session Road, Baguio City.

The President's Day: March 14, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the province of Pangasinan. At 1:05 p.m., he delivered a message at the turnover ceremony of the newly launched shared services facilities (SSF) projects in CSI Stadia, Judge Jose de Venecia Extension in Dagupan City. Launched by the Department of Trade and Industry in 2013, an SSF entails the setting up of common service facilities or production centers for certain processes to increase MSMEs' productivity; accelerate their competitiveness through the provision of energy efficient technologies; and encourage them to expand their business. For Pangasinan, from 2013 to February 2016, the government provided a total of 39 SSFs, costing a total of P32.82 million to improve MSMEs/cooperatives/ associations products, and increase production and income. These benefited a total of 3,058 individuals and generated 2,330 jobs. At 2:25 p.m., he attended the turnover of the new PAGCOR school building to Urdaneta I Central School, on Alexander Street, in Poblacion, Urdaneta City.

At 3:00 p.m., he attended and delivered a speech at a meeting with local leaders and the community. The meeting was held at the Urdaneta City Cultural and Sports Center, in Poblacion, Urdaneta City.

The President's Day: March 15, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 7th Assembly of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, which was held at the Kachina Room of the Century Park Hotel, in Manila. In the evening, he attended the necrological services of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, which was held at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Auditorium, in the GSIS Building, Pasay City. Salonga, 14th President of the Senate of the Philippines, was a statesman and lawyer, as well as a leading opposition leader during the regime of Ferdinand Marcos from the declaration of martial law in 1972 until the People Power Revolution in 1986.

The President's Day: March 16, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the provinces of Laguna and Batangas. In the morning, at 10:00 a.m., as guest of honor, the President attended and delivered the keynote speech at the opening program for the 30th anniversary of the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD-MRI). He also laid wreath on former President Cory Aquino's marker at the Nook of Memories in the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI). The CMDI is located in Barangay Tranca Bay, Laguna.

CARD MRI is a group of institutions providing microfinance, microinsurance, degree and non-degree programs, and business development services to rural communities. As of October 2015, the CARD MRI has managed to reach more than 3.2 million socioeconomically challenged Filipino families with financial and social interventions.

At 11:55 a.m., he attended the inauguration of the Calatagan 63.3-megawatt Solar Farm in Barangay Paraiso, in Calatagan, Batangas. At 3:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and members of the community at the Batangas City Sports Complex Coliseum, on DJPMM Road corner Delas Alas St., Batangas City.

The President's Day: March 17, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the province of Pampanga. This afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., he attended the Flood Summit and inspected flood-control projects. The summit was held at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center, in Barangay Lourdes, San Fernando City. At 3:00 p.m., he attended a meeting with local leaders and the community at the Pampanga Provincial Capitol compound, in San Fernando City.

The President's Day: March 18, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III had a meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, and officials from the Departments of Budget and Management, Social Welfare and Development, Interior and Local Government, Finance, and the National Economic Development Authority. The meeting was held at the Study Conference Room, in Malacañan Palace, Manila.

The President's Day: March 21, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the province of Basilan. At 11:00 a.m., he attended the inauguration of the Basilan Circumferential Road, at Barangay Tumahubong, in Sumisip, Basilan.

The President's Day: March 22, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the 119th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Army, which was held at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

At 1:00 p.m., he had a meeting on the North Korean Cargo Vessel and concerns of the Department of Budget and Management. The meeting was held at the President's Hall, Malacañan Palace.

At 5:00 p.m., he filmed a video message in the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace.

The President's Day: March 23, 2016

Today, at 1:00 p.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III filmed a video for his Lent and Easter messages for the year.

The President's Day: March 28, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with officials from the Presidential Management Staff at the Private Office in Malacañan Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at 1:00 p.m., he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and officials from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Afterward, he met with officials from the Security Cluster.

Both meetings were held at the Study Conference in Malacañan Palace.

At 6:00 in the evening, the President attended the proclamation rally of the Liberal Party Candidates of the West National Capital Region (Manila). The rally was held at Plaza Miranda, in Quiapo, Manila.

The President's Day: March 29, 2016

At 1:30 p.m., the President attended the commencement exercises for the Master's in Public Management, Major in Local Governance and Development (MPM-LGD), for municipal, city, and provincial planners from the Yolanda Corridor of the Development Academy of the Philippines' (DAP) Graduate School of Public Development. The MPM-LGD is a capacity-building program that aims to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of various municipalities affected by Typhoon Yolanda. A total of 152 students are expected to graduate from this course. The course is a 14-month, 39-unit master's program that targets the 14 provinces and 175 municipalities and cities in the Yolanda Corridor.

The President's Day: March 30, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III attended the opening ceremonies of the Publish Asia 2016 Conference where, he was guest of honor. Publish Asia is an annual gathering of the top writers, editors, newspapers, and news publishers across the globe. Organized by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), the forum highlights the following topics: global media trends, resilience of print, advertising performance, investigative journalism in Asia, and audience development, among others. The event was held at the Manila Hotel, in Manila. Later in the afternoon, at 4:45 p.m., he attended the inauguration of two new school buildings in Grace Park Elementary School in Caloocan City.

Early in the evening, at 6:00 p.m., he met with the local leaders and the community of Caloocan City. The event was held at the city's Bonifacio Monument.

The President's Day: March 31, 2016

This afternoon, President Benigno S. Aquino III toured the new Kaertech Electronics Philippines, Inc. facility. The new facility, KEIPI, is on the 3rd floor of Innorev Building 2A, on Phase 6A of Laguna Technopark, Inc., Special Export Processing Zone, in Biñan City, Laguna. After the inspection he delivered a speech.

Kaertech Limited provides engineering design services and manufacturing. The group's objective is to provide customers with an "all-inclusive solution" by offering research and development engineering and manufacturing services for telecommunication products, multi-media tools, electronic modules, consumer electronic goods, household appliances and industrial products.

Afterward, at 2:35 p.m., he met with the local leaders and the community of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The event was held at Garden Plaza Events Center, Garden Villas, in Brgy. Malusak, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Later in the evening, at 6:30 p.m., he attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Center for Community Transformation (CCT), which was held at Pavilion A of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, in Madaluyong City.

Founded in 1992, CCT is a non-government Christian organization established as a response against poverty and social injustice that targets specific groups of poor Filipinos such as the orphans, abandoned children, out-of-school youths, rescued street dwellers, among others. The CCT has been working with several government agencies such as the DSWD, DTI, DepEd, TESDA and other LGUs, in serving the needs of diverse poverty groups in the country.

The President's Day: April 1, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III received a courtesy call from the United States Congressional Delegation at the Music Room of Malacañan Palace.

At 11:00 a.m., he had a Security Briefing meeting with officials from the Department of National Defense, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa.

In the afternoon he attended the turnover of the new PAGCOR-funded school buildings as well the launch of a shared service facility on the garments industry. The events were held at Carmona Elementary School, in Carmona, Cavite.

At 3:30 p.m., the President met with the local leaders and the community of Cavite. The event was held at Brgy Kaingin Aguinaldo Shrine, in Kawit.

The President's Day: April 4, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III led a ceremonial turnover of new firetrucks and patrol jeeps—135 500-gallon firetrucks and 144 patrol jeeps were turned over to designated recipient municipalities and local government units. The ceremony was held at the Quezon Memorial Circle, in Quezon City.

At 11:30 a.m., he met with officials from the Department of Transportation and Communications. at the Presidents Hall in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., he met with officials from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in Malacañan Palace.

At 3:00 p.m., in an official ceremony, President Aquino conferred the Order of Lakandula on Mr. Willie Tan at the Music Room in Malacañan Palace. Mr. Tan, current chair of Luen Thai Philippines, was recognized for his contributions to the country's manufacturing sector as well as his encouragement of foreign investments in the Philippines. Luen Thai is a leading consumer goods supply chain group. They are a global industry consolidator and multi-product expert in apparel and accessories.

The Order of Lakandula is the order of political and civic merit of the Republic, conferred in commemoration of Datu Lakandula's dedication to the responsibilities of leadership, prudence, fortitude, courage, and resolve in the service of one's people. It is one of the Senior Honors of the Republic together with the Philippine Legion of Honor (conferred for military and defense merit) and the Order of Sikatuna (conferred for diplomatic merit).

The President's Day: April 5, 2016

Today, President Benigno S. Aquino III visited the province of Zambales. At 1:35 p.m., he led the groundbreaking ceremony of the new outpatient department (OPD) of the President Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital (PRMMH). PRMMH is located along Pangasinan Road, in Iba. Afterward, at 2:10 p.m., he attended the launching of the dengue school-based immunization and ceremonial distribution of the Tamang Serbisyo sa Kalusugan ng Pamilya (TSeKaP) Equipment Package. At 3:15 p.m., he met with and addressed the local leaders and the community .

The President's Day: April 6, 2016

This morning, at 10:00 a.m., President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa at the Private Office, in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 11:00 a.m., he met with his speechwriters. The meeting was also held at the Private Office, in Malacañan Palace.

In the afternoon, at 1:30 p.m., he had a meeting with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Study Conference Room, in Malacañan Palace.

Afterward, at 2:30 p.m., he had a meeting with officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways at the Presidents Hall, in Malacañan Palace.

Early in the evening, at 5:00 p.m., President Aquino received a courtesy call from officials from Madrid Fusion at the Presidents Hall Sala, in Malacañan Palace. Madrid Fusion is an annually celebrated gastronomy congress, which has been celebrated in Madrid since 2003. In 2015, Madrid Fusion brought the congress to Manila for its first and only Asian edition. The theme for the Manila congress was "The Philippines and Spain: A 300-year Gastronomic Journey."

